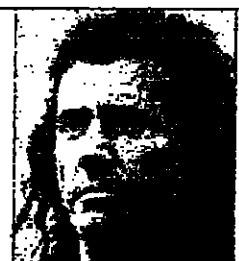




HOMEWORK
Half of Britain's students
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next door **PAGE 6**



14 PAGES OF SPORT
Cantona's comeback
and all the results and
reports **PAGES 25-38**



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Two for the price of
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DETAILS, PAGE 33

25P

THE TIMES

No. 65,387

MONDAY OCTOBER 2 1995

Setback for monetary union

Kohl raises doubts over EMU target

By Philip Webster and Roger Boyes

BRITISH ministers and Conservative MPs last night welcomed a "new realism" spreading across Europe after Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, conceded that the European single currency could miss its target date of 1999 by two years.

Herr Kohl's remarks, reportedly made to close colleagues and disclosed in *Der Spiegel*, pleased John Major and will raise the hopes of Tory Euro-sceptics that the single currency will be long-delayed and, conceivably, may never happen.

The statement — which contradicts all the public utterances coming from the European finance ministers who met in Valencia at the weekend — was disclosed in an article suggesting that there was a consensus in Germany's political elite about delaying the introduction of a single currency. It confirms the increasingly confident view in the Cabinet that the 1999 date is wildly optimistic.

Ironically Herr Kohl's private opinions were revealed on the day that Mr Major paid a private visit to the Chancellor at his villa in Oggersheim in the Rhineland-Palatinate. Herr Kohl is said to have told his closest advisers last week that the scheduled introduction date of January 1, 1999, was only of "secondary importance". If there were a postponement of EMU "the world would not collapse".

Herr Kohl's remarks were hailed by Downing Street as a clear indication that British resistance towards early monetary union was being accept-

"Herr Kohl has decided to shatter the illusion of Maastricht, and to do so publicly at the most sensitive time"
— *Leading article, page 21*

Euro currency, page 14
William Rees-Mogg, page 20

ed across Europe. "There is a clear change in which the British position is being accepted publicly, rather than being agreed with privately but opposed in public."

Last week's summit of European leaders in Majorca, at which Mr Major warned that the EU could be split apart by pressing ahead with monetary union, was seen in London as marking an important change in European mood towards a single currency. Foreign Office sources also said that the comments reflected "a much deeper sense of political reality" in Germany.

There was also Euro-sceptic delight that Kenneth Clarke's own drive towards a single currency appeared to be undermined by Herr Kohl's remarks. Mr Clarke had insisted in Valencia that he was in favour of sticking to the entry terms as set out in the Maastricht treaty.

Born seems to be crafting a completely new timetable for European integration. In a speech to be broadcast tomorrow, the fifth anniversary of German unity, Herr Kohl said: "I am glad that Chancellor Kohl has acknowledged that it cannot happen in 1999."

pean house will be solidly built."

Herr Kohl's remarks came as sceptics seized on the comment made by Jacques Delors, the former EC President, in an interview with *The Sunday Times*. M. Delors recalled he had issued a warning against being too ambitious over political union. M. Delors, considered the driving force towards federalism, said that Germany had led the drive. "Germany always said it could not accept monetary union without political union," he said.

Herr Kohl also suggested that by 2005 the central European states could be full members of the union. Until now the central European states have been working on the assumption that they would be considered for membership by the year 2000.

Apart from the need to replace the mark with the strongest possible European currency, Herr Kohl is determined that monetary union should not become an election issue. The German general election — perhaps Herr Kohl's last — is due to be held in October, 1998.

Bill Cash, a leading Eurosceptic, said last night: "We still have to assume that the political determination by Germany is to go for monetary union at any cost, if not at any time. But Eurorealism is now spreading. We have won the battle." John Redwood, the defeated Tory leadership candidate, said: "I am glad that Chancellor Kohl has acknowledged that it cannot happen in 1999."



Emma Thompson posing for the press outside her London home yesterday

Marriage break-up pains actress

EMMA THOMPSON, the actress, appeared distressed and tired yesterday after the weekend announcement that her six-year marriage to Kenneth Branagh is over.

Miss Thompson, 36, who is living in the couple's home in West Hampstead, north London, agreed to have her photograph taken on the doorstep. When asked how she was feeling, the Oscar-winning actress said: "A bit

rough actually. I didn't sleep at all. I can't add anything to the statement made last night. Without Ken, it wouldn't be fair," she added. Mr Branagh, 34, an Oscar nominee, is staying with friends in west London. She declined to answer questions about her relationship with Greg Wise, 29, with whom she stars in a forthcoming adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*.

DAVID CHESNIN

Davies affair pushes Blair into new row with the Left

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TENSIONS between Tony Blair and the Labour Left rose sharply last night as the leader prepared for a showdown at the party conference in Brighton over the ditching of Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate.

The leadership decided to try to prevent the issue overshadowing this week's conference by holding an emergency debate tomorrow morning, a few hours before Mr Blair's speech setting out in detail his plans to create a modernised "New Britain".

Mr Blair issues a defiant defence today of the decision to ditch Ms Davies. He makes plain that it is her connection with the ultra-left *Labour Briefing*, where she served on the editorial board, that is her main sin. He says in an interview in *The Guardian*: "A lot of MPs may disagree with policy on this or that issue. But this is different. There's an agenda run by a faction that has been personally abusive and vitriolic about senior members of the party over a long period."

He was sure the Conservatives would not allow people with that kind of anti-party record in the candidates' list. The Tory ultras said vicious things about John Major over Europe and they might dislike his leadership. "But they don't say that the whole of his politics, and the politics of the Cabinet, are treachery, which is effectively what *Labour Briefing* is saying about us."

Last night the Davies affair took on further bitterness when Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, virtually accused her of lying. He told a press conference that she had been "economical with the truth on certain items". By holding the debate tomorrow, with another in

which Arthur Scargill intends to resurrect the battle over Clause 4, Mr Blair is hoping to get two of the most troublesome items out of the way.

But yesterday the leader found himself under attack from left-wing MPs. Diane Abbott said: "It seems that a Blair government is going to shrink from doing even the most elementary things to make good the damage that 18 years of Tory government has done to our people and to our movement."

Clare Short, Labour's spokesman on women's rights, is to seek the conference's support for the leadership's action. Mr Blair seems certain to win, with the help of

Conference preview 8, 9
Peter Riddell 20
Leading article 21

the votes of the big unions, and he will defeat overwhelmingly Mr Scargill's attempt to re-run the fight over Clause 4.

In his speech, the Labour leader is planning to announce plans to cut the size of primary school classes. He is expected to promise that no primary schoolchild between the ages of five and seven will have to be in a class of 30 or more pupils. The scheme will be funded through abolition of the £110 million assisted places scheme. He is also to set out for the first time plans to help single parents into work. Mr Blair also looked likely to win a narrow victory today on the national minimum wage. The conference is expected to back the plan for a new low-pay commission to advise on the minimum wage; attempts by some unions to fix a specific figure could be rejected.

No buyers for rail franchises

The Government has been forced into a rethink of the rail privatisation timetable as fears grow that it may fail to sell a single passenger franchise by April 1, the target date for completing half the sell-off.

Ministers had hoped that at least nine of the 25 franchises, representing 51 per cent of the network, would operating in the private sector by the start of April. **PAGE 2**

Hong Kong pensions blow

Thousands of British civil servants in Hong Kong face having their pensions almost halved under a safety net scheme devised by the British Government.

The scheme is designed to compensate them for any sharp fall in the Hong Kong dollar after the colony is handed back to China in July 1997. **PAGE 48**

Queen may share a new Britannia with the Navy

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A NEW Royal Yacht *Britannia*, which would double as a sail-training ship and be partly funded by the Ministry of Defence, is expected to be given the go-ahead by the Government.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is understood to be in favour of such a scheme. A decision is due by the end of the year. Private capital, however, would be sought to build the vessel which could cost up to £60 million. *Britannia* currently costs taxpayers £12 million a year.

The Royal Yacht is 42 years old and faces decommissioning because the Government decided against a £17 million refit. A Cabinet Office committee representing all the interested parties — the MoD, Foreign Office, Department of

Trade and Industry, Downing Street and Buckingham Palace — is still examining a number of options.

If the Government approves the proposal for a dual-purpose vessel, the MoD would be expected to provide the funds for operating the vessel and supplying the ship's crew. The new *Britannia* would continue the role of promoting British trade and industry on world trips.

It is understood that until recently Royal Navy chiefs have opposed the use of defence budget money for running a replacement. However, according to defence sources, both Mr Portillo and Admiral Sir Jack Slater, the new First Sea Lord, are prepared to consider MoD funding.

Meanwhile, about 70 organisations have sent in applica-

tions to the Cabinet Office to buy the present *Britannia*. The deadline for completing a detailed questionnaire passed at the weekend.

Yesterday a spokeswoman for the Cabinet Office confirmed that an announcement would be made by the end of the year on the future ownership of HMY *Britannia*. The Royal Yacht is due to be decommissioned in 1997.

In June last year, Malcolm Rifkind, then Defence Secretary, said the Government was seeking a way of enabling *Britannia* to "continue to serve a useful purpose, even though she will no longer go to sea." Would-be buyers have been asked what modifications they planned to make to the ship to accommodate visitors and whether there would be admission charges.

Cantona scores after paying his penalty

By Kate Alderson

SCORES of tricolours and French berets brought a flavour of Bastille Day to Old Trafford yesterday as Eric Cantona was welcomed back to Manchester United.

After eight months of exile for kicking a Crystal Palace



A Cantona fan painted in honour of her idol

fan, the club's wayward galleon was hailed by the fans on his return to FA Cup Premier League football. He celebrated by scoring a penalty which earned the side a 2-2 draw with Liverpool.

A huge advertisement opposite the ground depicted Cantona being released from a prison cell with the words "He has been punished for his mistakes, now it is someone else's turn." T-shirts with the same logo were sold by the dozen, while red and white confetti was tossed into the wind. The crowd boomed out the anthem "ooh aah Cantona, ooh aah Cantona" waving French tricolours containing the player's face.

The carnival atmosphere had been growing in the city. Continued on page 2, col 5

Reports, pages 25, 29

If it's Tuesday, this must be er ... somewhere

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE maxim of American travellers that "if it's Tuesday, it must be Belgium" took on new meaning for tourists from Detroit whose plane to Frankfurt landed in Brussels by mistake.

Passengers watching an electronic map of the plane's progress knew that the Northwest Airlines DC-10 was heading for the Belgian capital but the

crew thought they were landing in Germany. Cabin crew were worried that they had been hijacked.

The US Federal Aviation Administration has launched an investigation into why the jet landed 200 miles from its destination. One official said: "The only people on that plane who didn't know where they were, were the three guys up front."

Northwest Airlines flight 52 went astray on September 5 as it passed into the hands of air traffic controllers at

Shannon, Ireland. Investigators believe that the plane was wrongly assigned a new destination.

Normally a jumbo's flight path is entered into its computer before take-off and the aircraft automatically makes course changes. The suspicion remains, therefore, that the error may have been made by the crew.

Because of heavy cloud the crew could not see landmarks and they failed to cross-check their position regularly. When the crew addressed

local air traffic controllers as "Frankfurt approach", the controllers did not correct them.

The pilot discovered that he was not landing in Frankfurt when he saw the airport. Unsure of where he was, he decided to land anyway. Another crew took the passengers to Frankfurt, seven hours late.

Northwest Airlines has grounded the captain, a 30-year veteran with an unblemished record, and the first officer and the flight engineer.

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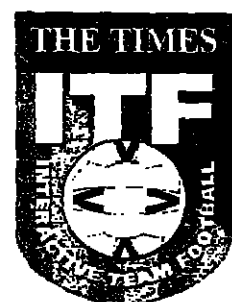
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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

PLAY TO WIN £50,000



Announcing the Interactive Team Football manager of the month

PLUS: Libby Purves, Nigella Lawson, Body and Mind and Law

FASHION

What Britain's smartest designers say you should wear this winter

PLUS: Simon Jenkins, Alan Coren, Brenda Maddox on Media, and Interface, the weekly guide to computers

BOOKS

Free, 12-page guide to Waterstone's new book bargains

PLUS: William Rees-Mogg, Janet Daley, Films of the Week and Travel News

ROBERT HARRIS ENIGMA

SALMAN RUSHDIE THE MOORS

MARTIN AMIS The Information

POP

Caitlin Moran and David Sinclair on modern music and musicians
PLUS: Bernard Levin, Valerie Grove, Clement Freud on sport, and Education

MAGAZINE

44-page men's style supplement

PLUS: Weekend: travel, books, property and shopping
1015: the magazine for young Times readers
Car 95: motoring news and information
Vision: the 7-day TV and radio guide

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Labour adds to doubt over faltering railways sell-off

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Government has been forced into a drastic rethink of the rail privatisation timetable as fears grow that it may fail to sell a single passenger franchise by April 1, the target date for completing half the sell-off.

Ministers had hoped that at least nine of the 25 British Rail franchises, representing 51 per cent of the network, would be operating in the private sector by the start of April.

Now it appears that only one or two franchises are likely to meet the deadline, leaving the bulk of the British Rail network in public hands in the run-up to next year's £2 billion flotation of Railtrack.

There was further confusion last night over the future ownership of the railway network when Labour's national

executive backed a conference motion calling for BR to be returned to public ownership "as swiftly as possible".

The Labour leadership distanced itself from full-scale renationalisation, John Prescott, deputy Labour leader, said a buy-back of a privatised British Rail could cost up to £4 billion. Speaking on BBC TV's *On The Record*, he said: "I can't sit here and commit the party to billions of pounds."

The Labour motion will raise fresh uncertainties over the already faltering sell-off, which is falling far behind the schedule set last year by John MacGregor, the then Transport Secretary.

Rail experts believe that the massive complexity of the privatisation and the break-

neck schedule set for it means that one major hitch could leave the entire network still under British Rail's control in six months.

"If everyone works flat out over weekends, Christmas and the new year and everything goes according to plan, they could still get the first three away by April 1," one senior rail industry source said. "But the documentation is hideously complex."

The 51 per cent barrier is unlikely to be breached until the autumn, up to six months behind schedule, and close to the date of the next general election. The delays could threaten the £2 billion sale of Railtrack, which is provisionally scheduled for next May or June.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, has been down playing the significance of the April 1 deadline. Sir George has argued that privatisation has gathered sufficient momentum to be irreversible, regardless of whether the target is missed.

The government is more concerned that as much of the industry as possible is in private hands by the general election to pre-empt Labour plans to bring it back into public ownership. One bidder said: "There is a lot of talk about 51 per cent by April 1 but the date they are really looking at now is the next general election. April 1 is no longer seen as the magic date."

Labour conference, page 9



Helen Ougham: fastest by half a minute

Crossword's first woman champion

By JOHN GRANT
CROSSWORD EDITOR

FOR the first time in its 25-year history, The Times Crossword Championship has been won by a woman. Dr Helen Ougham, 39, completed the four championship puzzles in an average of 11 minutes each at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel, London, on Saturday. One took her only six minutes.

Dr Ougham, a graduate of Giron, is a scientist at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, Aberystwyth. Two previous champions were second and third. Michael Macdonald-Cooper, 53, a retired education administrator from Kilmuir, Tayside, was half a minute behind Dr Ougham. William Pilkington, 47, Chief Budget Officer, Cleveland, was one minute behind. Fourteen out of 21 competitors, solved all four puzzles.

Clarke 'to raise tax' on tourist flights

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor is expected to raise Britain's tourism tax in the Budget. Travel agents fear a rise of at least £2 to the £5 charge on passengers flying within Europe, and a further £5 on the £10 rate for long-haul international flights.

Treasury officials believe they may have found a method of raising cash without causing any significant political "fallout", because so few complaints have been received about the departure tax imposed last year. The Air Passenger Duty is expected to bring in more than £300 million over the year.

The Association of British Travel Agents, meeting this week in South Africa, has written to Mr Clarke urging him not to go ahead with increases. Geoffrey Lipman of the World Travel and Tourism Council urged passengers to "take a stand against it".

He said: "If we were farmers being threatened with yet more taxation we would bring our cows on to the steps of parliament. But as an industry and as passengers we sit back and let them milk us for all they can."

Package tour operators are also fighting to force a change in a European Court ruling that tour operators must pay VAT on the air travel part of any package holiday. If the ruling goes ahead as planned in January, it could add a further £5 to the cost of an average holiday in Europe.

New Statesman back under editor's control

The crisis at *New Statesman and Society* deepened as it emerged that Steve Platt, the Editor, and an arch critic of Tony Blair, had withdrawn his resignation. Mr Platt had a change of mind after Philip Jeffrey, the major shareholder, installed himself as chairman, announced he wanted the resignation of every board member, and warned the magazine could close unless its circulation increased.

Most directors of the company were refusing to stand down and are expected to have a showdown with Mr Jeffrey who is calling an extraordinary meeting. Christopher Price, the chairman, has stood down. Brian Basham, a City public relations executive who was on the board, said last night: "If the *New Statesman* is to succeed... it will need a new editor."

Sainsbury tops earnings

David Sainsbury, chairman of Sainsbury's supermarkets, collected £37.6 million in share dividends last year, more than 100 times his salary, according to a survey by the independent Labour Research Department. Mr Sainsbury's salary was said to be £362,000, but income from his share stake in the family firm took his earnings to close to £38 million. Second in the survey's "league table" was Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, who was paid just over £7 million last year as chairman of the Really Useful Group. Dividends earned a further £19.2 million. They are joined at the head of the list by Ronald Hobson and Sir Donald Gosling who founded the National Parking Corporation.

Daly apology over abuse

Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Primate of All Ireland, told the Roman Catholic Church last night that it owed "the most abject and humble apology" to children who have been sexually abused by priests. As a papal envoy arrived in Ireland to prepare a report on the state of child abuse allegations against priests, Dr Daly said in an address at the Cathedral of St Eunan and St Columba in Letterkenny, Co Donegal, that the Church must "love the little ones who have suffered". He has faced criticism for responding slowly to the allegations.

Paedophiles register

Convicted paedophiles would be forced to register with local police when moving home under proposals to be put before Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, at a national police commanders' conference this week. The proposals drawn up by the Police Superintendents' Association also suggest that child offenders would be banned for life from any work with young people. Chief Superintendent Brian MacKenzie, president of the association, said many senior officers involved in investigating sex attacks were concerned that "we are not doing enough to keep tabs on these people".

Briton goes to trial

A British prison fugitive will go on trial in Singapore today on a murder charge that carries a mandatory death sentence. John Martin Scripps, 35, from Wapping, east London, is charged with the murder of a South African engineer. He is also wanted in Thailand for the alleged murder of a Canadian woman and her son in Phuket. Scripps, who fled England while on prison home leave a year ago, has been linked with the disappearance in Mexico of Timothy MacDowall, 28, from south London. He faces 11 further charges in Singapore.

Rider crushed by horse

A veterinary student was crushed to death by her horse yesterday at the Parkgate Horse Trial in the Wirral. Clare Harrison, 21, was killed instantly when the horse, Robbo, clipped a fence, somersaulted and landed on top of her. Her mother and father were at the trials and witnessed the accident. Miss Harrison was three years into a five-year course at the University of Liverpool. Roger Harrison, her father, said: "Clare has had Robbo since the age of 13 and they shared a very close relationship. It gives us all comfort to know that Clare was doing something that she loved."

Violence greets Adams in Glasgow

SECTARIAN violence broke out in Glasgow yesterday as Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, made his first visit to Scotland to address a public meeting. (Gillian Bowditch writes). Five demonstrators and one press photographer were arrested as protesters threw bottles and coins at those attending the meeting. First fights broke out as 100 police officers struggled to keep the peace. Around 200 protesters, including pensioners and children, hurled abuse at the 300 people attending the meeting.

The demonstrators chanted loyalist songs and waved Union flags. Placards hung on a fence outside the hall read: "No terrorist apologists welcome in democratic Scotland" and "Gerry Adams anti-Christ".

Mr Adams was talking in

Govan town hall in the heart of Glasgow. The Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland had called for protesters to demonstrate against his visit. Jack Ramsay, grand secretary of the order, put out a statement saying: "We are at a loss to determine what he seeks to gain from this visit. The support for him and the Sinn Féin Party he represents is minimal and can have no relevant input into their policies."

"There can be no doubt that his presence will cause a great deal of ill-feeling in the country as a whole."

Mr Ramsay said his members were involved in the demonstration but he said he had urged them to keep it peaceful. "I cannot say who was involved in the bottle throwing but we do not condone violence."

Cantona returns to the delight of fans

Continued from page 1

all week. Supporters roared when he appeared for the pre-match warm-up and put on a ball-juggling exhibition. When the teams ran out onto the pitch, Cantona emerged last to a ticker-tape welcome and thunderous cheers.

It took him just two minutes to make an impact, creating the scoring chance that was taken by his young team-mate, Nicky Butt. Having equalised, Cantona narrowly failed to score the winner with an acrobatic bicycle-kick which flew wide.

Chris McLean, a 40-year-old teacher, sported a beret, number seven shirt and

string of onions and garlic around her neck. "Eric lifts the fans and the team," she said. "He has a personality, a charm, which no one else seems to have and we have been waiting for his return for so long. We have been talking of little else for weeks."

Fans from as far as Norway, Greece and France had travelled to Old Trafford for a glimpse of Cantona's skills. Paul Toohy, 26, explained why he had travelled from Cork to pay £80 for a black market ticket. "Because God is appearing at Old Trafford," he said. "Manchester United are talented, the boys are playing

well, but he is the spark they need. He is back with a vengeance and he is going to stay."

Alan Woodhouse, 40, and his wife Pamela, 51, stood next to a hotel stand on the main thoroughfare to the ground, both with berets and Mr Woodhouse wearing his number seven shirt with the collar turned up. "Just like Cantona," he said. "He is so charismatic, so wonderful." Mrs Woodhouse said: "He motivates the whole team. He knows this is his last chance now and I just love him."

Reports, pages 25-29

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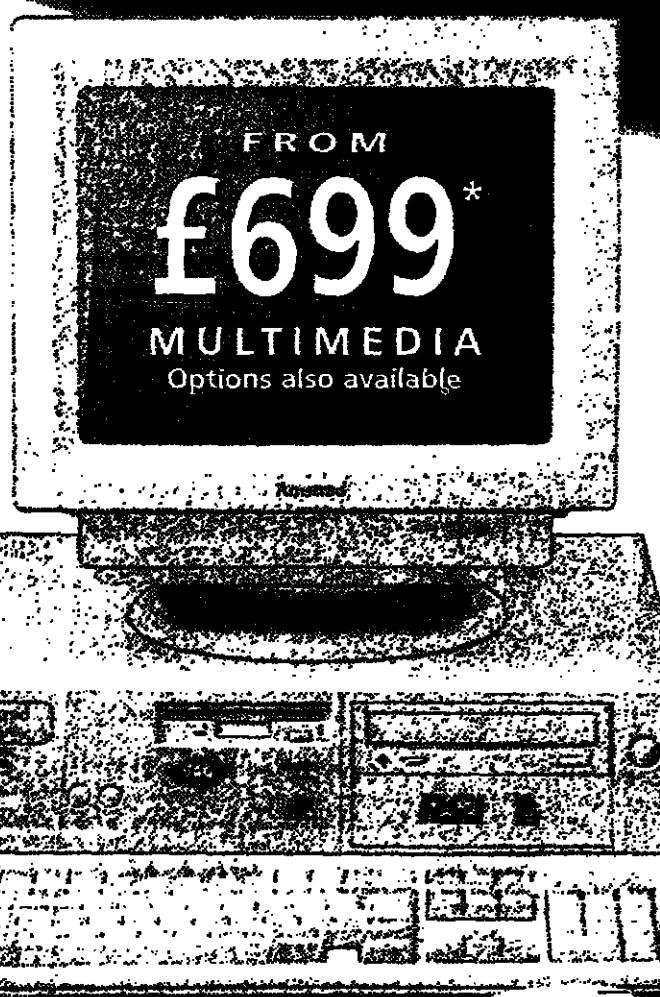
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Competitive drove heroes

We might time the future, say

'We have spent long periods of time away from each other and we have drifted apart'

Competing careers drove romantic heroes asunder

By Emma Wilkins

THE diverging careers of Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson placed their marriage in jeopardy long before their official separation.

Ms Thompson, 36, appeared to eclipse her husband when she won an Oscar for Best Actress in 1993 for her performance in the film *Howards End*. While Mr Branagh became the first British actor since Laurence Olivier to win an Oscar nomination for both Best Actor and Best Director for *Henry V* in 1990, he has never collected the golden statuette.

Following Miss Thompson's Hollywood success, reports that the marriage was in trouble were dismissed by her agent, who said the couple were happily together in 1993.

Mr Branagh's career received a setback when his film *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* was slated on its release last year. The production, reported to cost £35 million, starred Robert de Niro as the monster. One review said: "Branagh has indeed created a monster, but not the kind he originally intended."

The couple, who were once tipped to inherit the mantle of Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh, met in 1987 while filming the BBC drama *Fortunes of War* set in Athens and Egypt. They married in 1989 and held a reception for 200 guests including Dame Judi Dench and Brian Blessed.

Pressure of work meant that last year the couple spent just 100 days together at their home in west Hampstead, north London, where the Oscar has pride of place in the lavatory.

Their statement said: "It is with great sadness that we have decided to separate. Our work has inevitably led to our spending long periods of time away from each other and, as

1989: The couple married.
1990: Branagh nominated for best actor and best director Oscars for *Henry V*, which also starred Thompson.
1991: *Dead Again* became a surprise hit in America. Branagh directed and co-starred with Thompson.
1992: He directed, produced and starred in *Peter's Friends*, with Thompson and her mother, Phyllida Law.
1993: Both starred in *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Branagh.
1993: Thompson won best actress Oscar for *Howards End*.
1993: Thompson won Bafta for *Howards End* and Branagh won a special achievement award.
1994: Thompson won Bafta for *The Remains of the Day*. She began adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility* and went to America to film *Junior*. She began filming *Carrington*.
1994: *Frankenstein*, directed by Branagh and starring Robert de Niro, was slated by critics.
1995: Branagh went to Italy to film *Othello*. Thompson reportedly checked into a health clinic, suffering from exhaustion.

a result, we have drifted apart. The separation is entirely amicable but, as with the breakdown of any relationship, it is painful for both of us and we ask the media to respect both our privacy and that of our friends and families."

Mr Branagh, 34, who was compared to Orson Welles after his film *Dead Again* became a surprise Hollywood hit in 1991, has now moved out

of the couple's home. He is staying at the home of Tamar Thomas, who is his personal assistant and wife of Gerard Horan, an actor.

Miss Thompson, who is the daughter of Phyllida Law, the classical actress and the late Eric Thompson, best-known as narrator of *The Magic Roundabout*, is reportedly on close terms with Greg Wise, a 29-year-old actor, Mr Wise, who played the romantic lead in the recent BBC series *The Buccaneers*, met Miss Thompson on the set of *Sense and Sensibility* earlier this year.

Mr Branagh, who published his autobiography at the age of 28, won early acclaim for his acting roles in *Another Country* in the West End and *Henry V* for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The couple have worked together in the theatre and on film productions including *Peter's Friends*, *Dead Again* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Mr Branagh picked Helena Bonham-Carter, the actress known for her roles in adaptations of EMF Foster novels, to play the romantic lead opposite him in *Frankenstein* and the pair became close friends.

Mr Branagh, who was born in Belfast but spent most of his childhood in Reading, was trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art where he won the Bancroft Gold medal. In 1987 at the age of 26, he founded the Renaissance Theatre Company where he took the role of actor-manager. His play, *Public Enemy*, was published in 1988.

Miss Thompson, who was a member of the Cambridge University Footlights drama group, followed her Oscar success with a starring role last year in *Junior*, a Hollywood production with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny de Vito. The adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility* features Hugh Grant, the British actor.



Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson met during *Fortunes of War*, above, and were married in 1989. Thompson, seen left in *Carrington*, won an Oscar while Branagh's *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* was slated



Pavarotti marriage in trouble

THE curtain appears to be falling on the 34-year marriage of Luciano Pavarotti and his wife Adua (John Phillips writes). According to reports in the Italian press, a divorce could cost the tenor, 59, much of his £100 million fortune.

Long-standing rumours that all was not well in the Pavarotti household peaked in the summer when the singer was photographed reclining in a hammock being comforted with kisses from Nicoletta Mantovani, his 26-year-old secretary.

One of his daughters was quoted as confirming that their mother had given up her long-standing position as Pavarotti's manager-in-chief.

Dudley out, says wife

THE fourth wife of Dudley Moore has declared their short and stormy marriage over. Nicole Rothschild, 31, married the entertainer in April last year, and they have a son.

She offered her story of the marriage to a British tabloid for \$150,000. Moore, 60, denied his marriage was in jeopardy. "All is domestic bliss and tranquility ... The sun is shining, my marriage is fine," he told the *News Of The World*, which declined Miss Rothschild's six-figure request.

Aircraft enthusiasts killed as US bomber crashes

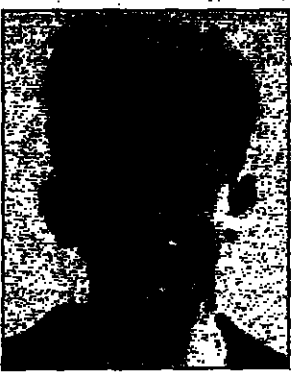
By Dominic Kennedy

TWO British vintage aircraft enthusiasts were killed when a rare Second World War bomber crashed in the United States. Colin Dunwell, 35, and Chris Gardner, 24, were on a holiday to see old aircraft and to meet veterans.

They were offered the opportunity to fly in the one of the few Martin Marauder B-26s still believed to be airworthy. The twin-engine plane, rehearsing for a Texas air show to commemorate the end of the war, took off from the Confederate Air Force base in Midland.

Minutes later it crashed 20 miles away, exploding into flames in a field near Odessa. Three Americans also died in the accident, on Thursday.

The Britons were friends who devoted their spare time to restoring aircraft at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire. They had travelled to America to spend a week at the Texas air show and two in San Diego, where they were in-



Chris Gardner, left, and Colin Dunwell took the opportunity to fly in one of the last airworthy B-26s



vited to the annual reunion of the American Eagle Squadron, which consists of pilots who joined the RAF as volunteers before the United States entered the war.

The Britons spent their spare time helping to restore the fighter collection in Duxford. The planes there carry the colours of the Eagle Squadron. Both men had helped to entertain veterans visiting Britain and had already been to the United States to meet ground crew and pilots.

The plane that crashed was delivered to the US Air Force in May 1943 and decommissioned at the end of the war. It was used for racing and converted for commercial use before being grounded.

The Confederate Air Force began refurbishing the bomber in 1976 and has been flying it in shows since September 1984. The National Transport

sation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the accident.

Mr Dunwell, a divorced father-of-two from New Malden, Surrey, had been made redundant from his job as a fitter with British Aerospace and was hoping to renew contacts in America so he could work there.

"The only consolation for us is that he was doing what he loved, he was in the place he loved and he was in a plane," his brother Paul, 39, said. "When his life finally did come to an end it had a point to it. Planes were very much his life both in work and at play, ever since he was a kid."

Mr Gardner, a bachelor from Harlow, Essex, was a production engineer who devoted many hours to restoring aircraft. For the past seven years he was involved with the fighter collection at Duxford at weekends.

We might time-travel back to the future, says Hawking

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

ONE of the favourite themes of science fiction has been given credibility by the eminent mathematician and cosmologist Stephen Hawking: time travel may be possible.

The Cambridge professor, once a firm disbeliever, says the Government should fund research into the scientific principles. His conversion comes in the foreword to a new book, *The Physics of Star Trek*, by the American astronomer Lawrence Krauss.

Professor Hawking writes that the research "doesn't involve much money ... what it needs is an openness of mind to consider possibilities that might appear fantastic."

Einstein theorised that travel at enormous speeds would make it possible to visit the past. This has prompted ideas about black holes and worm

holes, where stars have collapsed, and light and matter are sucked in at extraordinary rates. Gravitational fields might be so vast as to reverse the flow of time.

In a worm hole — two black holes linked by a funnel — a time traveller might pop in at one end and emerge out of the other in a different time. The tricky thing is that many scientists believe the traveller would collide with himself coming the other way. Latest studies say nature would not allow him to emerge anywhere near himself — or the place he left. The only place possible to visit might be somewhere on the other side of the universe.

Professor Hawking says: "If you combine Einstein's general theory of relativity with quantum mechanics, it does

begin to seem a possibility." Professor Frank Close of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory said yesterday: "I do not know how serious he is. One speculates a great deal about things round coffee tables, in research labs and book promotions. Not necessarily the same level at which you might speculate when writing a scientific paper."

Professor Close said that he had several problems with the idea of time travel. "If it were really practical, why is it that no one has come from the future to tell us about it. There are two possible answers. The bad news is that time travel is possible but that the human race is going to die out soon and so we did not discover it. The other is that time travel is not possible for large scale objects like you and me."

Whhh

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Think-tank warns of civil disobedience

Road tolls 'could be another poll tax'

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS could be provoked into a campaign of civil disobedience on the scale of the poll tax rebellion if the Government pushes ahead with its plans for electronic motorway tolls.

A study of the proposals carried out by an influential right-wing think-tank predicts a flood of court cases forcing the Government to abandon the "pay as you drive" system as millions of drivers ignore the tolls.

"If electronic tolling is not seen as fair, there is a very real risk of civil disobedience," according to yesterday's report from the Centre for Policy Studies, which has close links with the Government.

"Many motorists might decide simply to ignore the law and drive on motorways without paying tolls. The Government would be quickly overwhelmed by the number of violations and could have no choice but to abandon the system. The experience of the

poll tax might not be entirely irrelevant." Motorists who rarely drove on the motorways would either be forced to buy expensive in-car equipment or face being barred unfairly from using the network.

The report, written by Michael Schabas, a transport consultant who advised on the Jubilee Line extension and the Docklands Light Railway in east London, said the complexity of the proposed system made it inevitable that thousands would be wrongly charged.

"Even if successful charging can be achieved 99.99 per cent of the time, there could be 300,000 spurious violation notices a year. Given the technical demands of communicating with an on-board device at speeds of 90mph on a congested road, reliability of 95 per cent or less seems more likely. This implies 100 million potential violations or more."

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, announced

two months ago that trials on toll technology would start next summer on a stretch of the M3. He promised that revenue estimated at £1 billion a year from tolls would be used to improve and build motorways.

The trials will involve three different electronic technologies for registering the presence of a vehicle and sending a bill to the owner.

The report proposes an alternative option under which motorists would register as low or high road users, and pay banded charges accordingly. This would be policed by a network of roadside cameras linked by microprocessor to a hard disc list of high-use vehicles.

Drivers travelling more than they had paid for would receive bills for the extra amount. Low-use drivers might pay £100 a year, while a high-use charge of £1,000 "would raise an easy billion or two each year."



Craig Buckley: was told that his spine is in similar condition to a 70-year-old

Child sport alert over ex-runner in a wheelchair

By TIM JONES

CHILD athletes were warned yesterday that they can be crippled for life if they begin marathon and long distance running before they are fully developed. The alert came as former teenage runner Craig Buckley told how he had been condemned to life in a wheelchair.

Mr Buckley, 22, said: "My spine has suffered the equivalent wear and tear as that of a 70-year-old. I have been told I wore it out because of too much of the wrong kind of exercise as a child."

At eight, he competed in half marathons with his father. At 15, he tricked his way into the adult section of the London Marathon. The black belt karate expert, who has two young children, said: "Distance running events were something I loved. I have no regrets. I was always very active."

Mr Buckley, of North Seaton, Northumberland, is to marry his fiancée Helen Shore, 21, this month and is

determined his physical condition will not depress him. He counsels other disabled people. He said: "I have two lovely children. I am getting married, and I am in the process of setting up business as a mobile car mechanic."

Garard Hargreaves, chief physiotherapist at the Newcastle Sports Injury Clinic, said: "I would not advise young people to do the kind of running Craig did. In the age range of eight to 12, children should be sprinting rather than competing in long distance events like half-mile or mile marathons."

"Young bodies grow in spurts and are vulnerable to a range of bone and muscle problems caused by the wrong type of exercise. While not everyone would suffer as badly as Craig so soon in life, the wrong kind of exercise in childhood can cause permanent spinal damage."

Children, he said, should also avoid weight lifting or over-vigorous training.

West trial city prepares for media invasion

By LEYLA LINTON

THE trial of Rosemary West will be Winchester's most notorious case since Sir Walter Raleigh was condemned to death for treason in 1603. But, instead of Elizabethan quills and ink, proceedings will be recorded on CaseView for Windows, a software programme similar to that used for the O.J. Simpson trial.

Pubs have been stockpiling beer and spirits, every hotel bed has been booked for months and traders are trying to avoid looking too pleased about their autumn windfall. Winchester Chamber of Commerce believes £500,000 is a conservative estimate of the boost to the city's economy.

"We don't like to be seen to be profiteering out of something that is a tragic story," said Robin Hutson, co-proprietor of the Hotel Du Vin and Bistro, who has been asking for six weeks' payment to let rooms to journalists.

Alan Davidson, the court administrator, said: "As far as everyone in the court is concerned and everyone involved in the trial, this is just another court case. It will be handled in exactly the same way as if we were dealing with someone being tried for shoplifting."

Few alleged shoplifters can

have attracted press applica-

tions from Ireland, France,

Belgium, Germany, Australia,

Norway, Switzerland, Spain

and America. "And there will

be more," said Mr Davidson.

Court Three, where 41-year-

old Mrs West goes on trial tomorrow denying ten murders, used to have space for ten journalists. It has been altered to seat 30 reporters and four artists. More than 120 journalists have been given accreditation. Five authors will also follow the trial, which is expected to last for about two months.

The judge, Mr Justice Mantell, will have a laptop computer on his bench. Identical terminals will be available to Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, and Dick Ferguson, QC, for the defence.

The screens will display text of the spoken proceedings as they happen. Keystrokes made by a team of three stenographers will be translated instantly into words.

The centrepiece exhibit is a detailed model of 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, where Mrs West used to live with her husband Frederick, a builder. He was found hanged in his prison cell in Birmingham on New Year's Day, aged 53.

Mr West had been accused of the same murders and two more besides, including that of his first wife. The prosecution alleges that the house and garden provided graves for nine of Mrs West's alleged victims, including her daughter Heather, 16.

There are 47 seats in the public gallery. Tickets will be available from 9am. Seventeen places have been reserved for relatives of the dead.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Danger of turning a blind eye to safety

SNOW blindness, an acutely painful condition, is never welcome. But news that Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, the two British hostages in Kashmir, had been brought down from the mountains to receive treatment for the condition gave some comfort to their family and friends. They were grateful to learn that the two men were alive, although it was not disclosed whether snow blindness was the hostages' only medical trouble.

It is an acute condition, miserable and disabling while it lasts, but patients usually recover spontaneously and need no more than local treatment to alleviate the pain and discomfort. Vision is rarely permanently damaged unless inappropriate dressings have been applied to the inflamed cornea and have caused ulceration.

Snow blindness is the result of overexposure to the dazzling ultraviolet rays of the sun, which damage the conjunctiva and cornea. As with sunburn, the harmful effects take time to show. About six hours after exposure the cells of the outer layer of the cornea swell; later this layer peels off, leaving the exquisitely sensitive nerve endings exposed. When exposure to the sun has not been too extreme the

result may be no more than an inflamed and watery eye. Greater exposure may impair vision so that it is at best blurred, or at worst temporarily lost. There is marked photophobia so that the patient cannot stand light.

The sun's rays are more damaging in the rarified pollution-free atmosphere of high altitudes or when they are reflected off snow. The corneal damage associated with snow blindness does not, however, occur only in the mountains or on the ski slopes. Similar hazards await sunbathers who are dazzled by the tropical sun reflected off the sand and the sea. Welders can suffer similar damage if unprotected by goggles.

Long-term overexposure to sunlight is thought to damage the lens and induce cataracts, and may even be a factor in the development of macular degeneration of the retina, the retina's ageing process, which is a cause of senile blindness. Sunglasses have uses beyond adding mystery to the beautiful people, and disguise to rogues; they may prevent blindness in old age.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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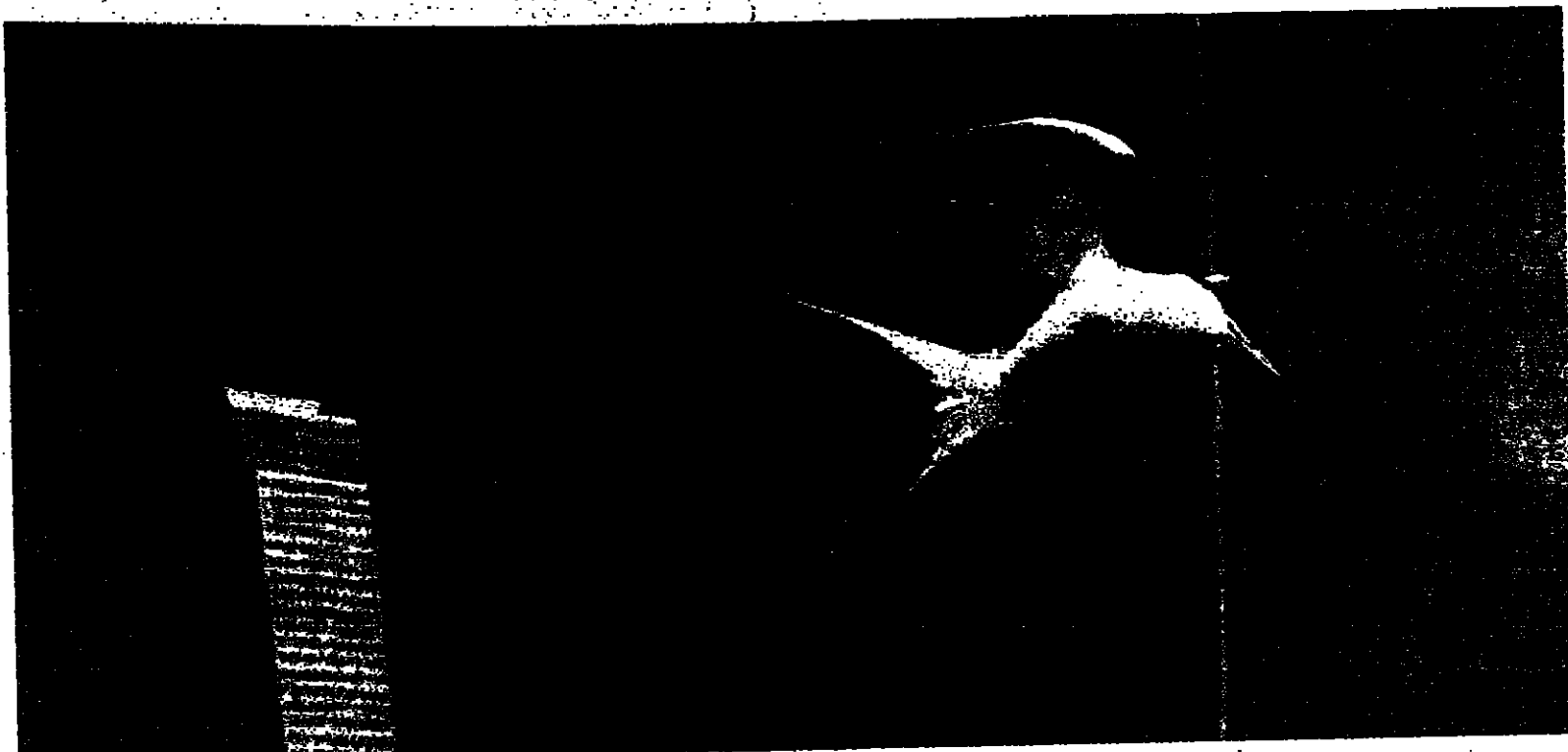
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Half are choosing a local university as continental trend halts the traditional autumn migration

Revolution by students who want to stay at home

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A QUIET revolution in student life unfolds this week as record numbers of undergraduates begin courses while still living at home. For the first time, half of Britain's freshers have opted for a local university and an estimated one in five will live with parents.

The drift towards a continental system — studying locally is the norm in France, Italy, Spain and Germany — has led universities to put more resources into recruiting on their doorsteps.

The reasons against the traditional migration of 18 and 19-year-olds are financial pressures, an expanded choice of courses in many regions, and a "new seriousness" among students seeking to avoid the distractions of campus life.

Brian Ramsden, chief executive of the Higher Education Statistics Agency, said that the large metropolitan universities attracted the most home-based students, and added: "Roughly half of students are staying in the same area."

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service said more than 45 per cent of applicants studied in their home region last year. Jess Enderby, a UCAS spokesman, said: "This is likely to increase."

Birmingham University sends brochures to local schools and colleges putting the case for home-based study. In a survey of its own home students, it found the most important reason was that it made studying easier. Frank Albrighton, its spokesman, said: "What you have got is a serious-minded student who perceives university life having too many distractions. They want to get their head down. We are recruiting high-

achieving A-level school-leavers — traditionally the market where you are least likely to find students staying at home."

The survey also found cultural causes, notably among Asian women preferring to remain at home.

Wolverhampton University also estimates that half its new students will live at home. Like other former polytechnics, it has a long tradition of serving the local population.

Melanie Whyatt, its spokeswoman, said: "Our guess is that the main reason is financial. Many are mature students but we do perceive a rise in 18-year-olds staying at home."

In 1990, only one in ten students lived at home, but Britain still has a long way to go to match the French, German and Italian systems, where attending university locally is the norm. Only a tiny percentage travel further afield for specialist study, such as medicine.

Sir Christopher Ball, director of learning at the Royal Society of Arts, believes the trend should be encouraged by cutting the £1,885 grant to the £1,500 rate for home-based students. He said: "It is a very middle-class tradition for young people to go away from home, but it is not really a justifiable call on the taxpayer. This would save the Exchequer considerable funds which could be put into the further expansion of higher education."

The Department for Education and Employment said there were no plans to trim the higher grant. A spokesman said: "Ministers want students to go to the place which is right for them academically."



Sheldon Lacy's first year studying at home meant not worrying about his ironing but having to make a big effort to break into university social life. The 19-year-old, pictured above with his parents and sister, is starting his second year at Hull University with no regrets about opting for home comforts in Cottingham, a suburb north of Hull, and with a bigger budget for beer than most of his peers. He receives £800 in grant annually and does not pay for board and lodging. His decision was primarily

influenced by Hull being one of the few places offering his preferred course, Applied Physics with Laser Technology. He said: "You get your washing, ironing and cooking done and you have fewer money constraints living at home. I have friends who spend all their grant on accommodation and must have a lot more pressure to work over Christmas, whereas my main expenses are equipment and books. It was difficult at first, because I missed a lot of the fresher initiations. By not living in a hall of residence there was nobody to drag me out. The first three weeks were the hardest because I did not know anybody and I had to be more outgoing." However, home comforts have some disadvantages. Building romance "can be awkward at a later stage". That is not all. "There are always people inviting themselves round for Sunday roast."



STUDENT 2

Sean Jones's ideal course was at Bath but, fearful of the expense, he applied to local universities. He won a place at Sussex but believes the system is becoming elitist, with only richer families able to afford their pick of universities. Staying at home with his mother in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, he can help to make ends meet with a part-time job at Tesco alongside his studies in philosophy and artificial intelligence.

Mr Jones, 18, receives the full annual grant of £1,530. He contributes £60 a month towards housekeeping, leaving about £70 for course materials and socialising. He said: "I also want to avoid a student loan because I really want to avoid getting into debt."



STUDENT 3

Local ties and tempting courses at several nearby universities led Claire Burnell to conclude there was no need to leave the West Midlands. She chose to live at home, even though her train fare will take up a large part of her grant, because her parents were happy to let her stay rent-free.

Ms Burnell, 18, lives in Halesowen, West Midlands, and is in her first term of a law course at Wolverhampton University. She said: "Obviously finance was a big reason for my decision, but there were enough opportunities in the Midlands not to need to go away. Also I really enjoy being with my family."

She receives £282.70 grant per term and pays £36 for a four-week rail pass.

Professor puts the cat among the pronominal pigeons

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MISUSE of the pronoun has become so widespread in the English language that the rules should be relaxed to accommodate it, a leading grammarian says.

Professor John Honey, who is lecturing in Japan after a career at Cambridge, Durham and Leicester, has amassed a wealth of grammatical howlers by the great and the good. In an article in the journal *English Today* he shows that the

Prince of Wales, Baroness Thatcher and even the author of the national curriculum for the subject are prone to confusing "I" and "me".

The Prince, who Professor Honey says is the future "chief exemplar of the King's English", made his slip in a television interview with Jonathan Dimbleby. Referring to his relationship with his wife, he said: "Us both having tried..."

Lady Thatcher's grammatical

crime was committed in a 1976 radio interview when she spoke of "co-operation between those who can stamp out terrorism south of the border, and we who can do it north of the border."

For once, trendy teaching is not to blame. Professor Honey's 15-year study has shown that Shakespeare and Ben Jonson were careless with their use of pronouns.

Professor Honey writes: "My recommendation is that we now recognise the emergence of an

alternative rule whose optional use by public figures, academics, royalty and others (not to mention the man/woman in the street) should now be acknowledged by the codifiers of the English language, by teachers, proof-readers, examination boards — in fact by all the agents of the prescriptive tradition, never forgetting that ever-vigilant critic, Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells."

Professor Honey, who is continuing his research at Osaka University, said yesterday: "I am a prescriptivist, but language evolves and we must be realistic about the rules. When something is used as regularly as this, the rules should be reviewed."

Other eminent grammarians were sceptical. Lord Quirk, one of the leading authorities in the field, said: "I would not go along with making 'I' and 'me' interchangeable. It is true that Shakespeare used both, but that did not make it any more correct. There are perma-

nent pressures on language, and the fact that they are resisted shows that people recognise the value of correct usage."

Lord Quirk added: "This is the kind of solecism into which we all slip, but that does not mean that it is right for the majority of careful users. Some expressions, such as the replacement of 'I' in 'Who's there?' Me, have become established in colloquial English, but one would still hesitate to use them in writing."

Woman found strangled

The body of a young woman was found covered with branches at a secluded beauty spot yesterday by a man walking with his two children. The unidentified woman, aged between 15 and 30, had been strangled with a ligature. Her body was discovered near Druids Altar, Bingley, West Yorkshire.

Police have been unable to link the woman, an Afro-Caribbean with dreadlocked hair, with missing person reports and say she could have come from anywhere in the country. They have appealed to the public for help in identifying her.

Happy return

A woman who received a life-saving double lung transplant is, to return to the hospital where she was treated — as a trainee nurse. Barbara Herbert, 25, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, starts at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, next year.

Hunt for angler

Divers were called in to search for an angler who drowned while trying to free his snagged line. The man apparently slipped from a ledge into deep water after wading in at Chelmarsh, Shropshire. The alarm was raised by other anglers in a weekend contest.

Couple tied up

Two armed raiders tied up a middle-aged couple at home in Basingstoke, Hampshire, and hit the husband repeatedly about the head before stealing guns, cash and jewellery. Police said the couple, in their fifties, were deeply shocked by the attack.

Drug charges

Four more men will face drug charges at Blackpool Magistrates' Court today after police inquiries into the death of Daniel Ashton, 17, who collapsed at a nightclub. Gareth Owen, 24, who appeared in court on Saturday, will make a second appearance today.

Steam ticket

The opening of Belfast's new Great Victoria Street railway station was celebrated with a special steam service from the city across the border to Dundalk, along the route of the old Great Northern Line. The original station on the site was demolished 19 years ago.

Lucky numbers

The pools firm Littlewoods launches its scratchcards in shops, post offices and petrol stations today. Each game will be dedicated to a charity, which will get 24p from each £1 ticket. Littlewoods hopes to make up to 3p profit per card. Lottery numbers, page 24.

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You can win two tickets worth £125 each to see the Royal charity premiere of *Haunted* in a competition organised exclusively for readers of *The Times* in association with the British Red Cross. The free tickets also include an invitation to the post-premiere dinner at Cafe Nico, Grosvenor House, Park Lane.

HRH The Princess of Wales, as a vice president, British Red Cross, will attend the premiere which will take place on Thursday, October 26 at the Empire, Leicester Square. All proceeds from the evening will go to the European Anorexia Trust and to the British Red Cross 125th Birthday Appeal.

Haunted is a romantic ghost story based on the best-selling book by James Herbert and directed by Lewis Gilbert who also brought *Educating Rita*, *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *Shirley Valentine* to the big screen. Starring in *Haunted* are Aidan Quinn, Anthony Andrews, Kate Beckinsale and Sir John Gielgud.

To win the tickets all you have to do is ring our competition hotline 0891 334 339, with your answer to this question:

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Lines are open until midnight, Friday October 6. The winner will be the first correct entry drawn at random from all entries received.

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For other tickets *The Times* is able to offer readers a special discount: £75 tickets are reduced to £65, £50 tickets are £40 and £25 tickets are £20.

Please complete and return this coupon to: Teresa Fitzgerald, Senior Events Manager, British Red Cross, National Headquarters, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EL.

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Trading officers will not push prosecutions

Tory MP urges national defiance of metrication

By Andrew Pierce

A CAMPAIGN of civil disobedience to preserve imperial weights and measures was urged by a senior Conservative MP yesterday, as new laws ensuring the march of metrication came into effect.

Trading standards officers are already warning that they will refuse to enforce European rules making it a crime to sell a 5lb bag of potatoes or a pint of shandy.

Hundreds of small businesses have refused to conform to the new metric laws because of the costs of conversion. The UK Independence Party mounted a series of demonstrations around the country in protest at Metrication Day.

Sir George Giddiner, MP for Reigate and chairman of the 92 Group of Thatcherite MPs, urged national defiance by the British against the metric system, which was spread through continental Europe by Napoleon. Sir George said: "This is a day of

shame for all past governments who have pawned our heritage knowing they can never buy it back. Pounds, ounces, pints, gallons are parts of our Anglo-Saxon heritage.

"There are plenty of examples across Europe of blind eyes being turned on commission directives. Let our trading standards officers do the same. All power to traders who refuse to bow to this diktat. Just wait for the public outcry if any trader is hauled before our courts. He would become a national hero overnight."

The Federation of Small Businesses has warned that hundreds of its members are at risk because of the average £3,000 cost of converting equipment and price tickets. The federation says that the Government failed to promote Metrication Day because it feared a rebellion by Eurosceptics. Traders face fines of up to £5,000 if they defy the

law change, but trading standards officers seem ready to render the laws ineffective by enforcing them only if traders cheat customers.

Christopher Howell, the lead officer for metrication at the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, said: "Trading standards inspectors will adopt a common sense view of their difficulties. The Government has been late with publicity about the change, and there are areas where the legislation itself is confused and confusing. We will be working to minimise the inconvenience arising from the stupidities."

"We will be enforcing the law but in a sensitive way, by persuasion and not compulsion. People who manipulate the law to take advantage are the only ones who will be on the receiving end of any prosecutions."

The Federation of Small Businesses is calling for traders to be given the choice of

selling goods in metric or imperial weights. It is urging a 12-month transition period.

A challenge to the legality of the change is to be mounted in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Dr Alan Sked, chairman of the UK Independence Party, said: "British citizens are being discriminated against because they have no option but to accept this. Nowhere in Europe are these measures being enforced with the full power of the law."

Yesterday, an anti-Metrication Day roadshow swept into the Cornish rearing empire Trago Mills. Bruce Robertson, the company chairman, said: "We are prepared to sell goods and products to any customers in whatever measure they want and understand. I have had almost 100 per cent support from customers. People from all over the country have written in to back us."

Letters, page 21

Farmer bans sale of French products

A FARMER in Wiltshire is so incensed by metrication that he has banned the sale of French products from his farm shop, declaring "We will be imperial" (Andrew Pierce writes). Paul Reynolds, who runs Allington Farm Shop, near Chippenham, says he faces a bill of several thousand pounds to change his scales to metric measurements.

Mr Reynolds, who has been trading for ten years, is one of hundreds of small traders to defy the law, which he blames on the European Union. "I sell homegrown produce when I can but I used to sell French apples. Now they are banned," he said.

Mr Reynolds, 45, who has a 180-acre farm, has refused to adapt his shop to meet metric requirements. He sells pre-packed meat and cheese which, according to the new law, can no longer be sold in imperial measurements.

"I have just spent £250 on labels to last me the year. Now they are in breach of the law. Who will compensate me for that? It will cost me thousands to change my scales. I cannot afford it."



Paul Reynolds has refused to adapt his farm shop to meet metric requirements

'As usual, no one asked shoppers what we thought'

By Nigel Williamson

GIVE Europe an inch and it will take a thousand metres. That was the overwhelming view of shoppers on Metrication Day at Sainsbury's in west London yesterday.

The half a pound of tuppenny rice of the nursery rhyme was nowhere to be found. Instead, there was Sainsbury's economy long-grain rice on offer at 84p per kilo, or 84p per 100 grammes, as the shelf label helpfully noted. But how much per pound? They were not saying.

The other staple of the old rhyme, half a pound of tinned, was still being sold in 1lb tins at 69p. Harvest, really. What shoppers needed, to know was that it contained 454 grammes. Another label informed us that this was 15.2p per 100 grammes.

Sainsbury's insisted that it was showing measurements on its service counters in both metric and imperial "to minimise confusion". Which was presumably why brussels sprouts were listed at £1.49 per kilo, and in smaller print, at 79p per pound.

Freda Morris, a pensioner who lives in a housing association flat in Covent Garden, said: "It is shocking. Quite dreadful. I have been on a self-catering holiday in France and ended up buying

twice as many vegetables as we needed. We don't need metric over here."

People seemed to be confused by the apparently anti-Gallic nature of a protest outside the store. One shopper, on being handed a leaflet by a member of Dr Alan Sked's UK Independence Party, asked: "Is it to do with the French nuclear tests in the Pacific?"

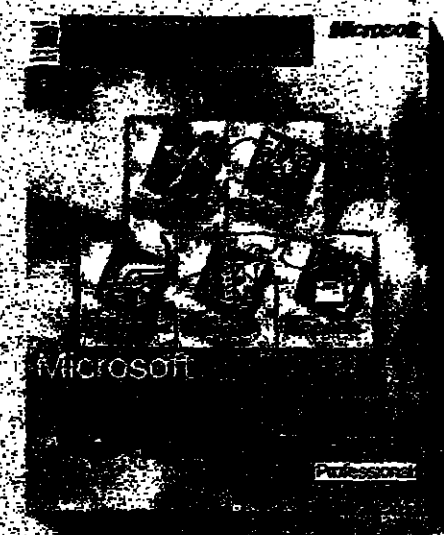
Dr Sked, in between handing out leaflets, told French and German television crews, fascinated by what they saw as a classic case of British Luddism, that metrication was undemocratic, unnecessary and unwanted. "Ninety per cent of the population is against it. It confuses people. Small shopkeepers are going to go out of business," he said in multilingual soundbites.

Dennis Young, deputy manager of the store, insisted that he had received not one complaint from a confused shopper. However, Margaret Johnson, 63, from Notting Hill, said: "It is a long time since I was at school and pounds and ounces were always good enough for us." Patricia David, a former Wren from Chiswick, said: "As usual, no one even asked us what we thought."

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Party leadership warms to idea of taxing child benefit

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

SEVERAL prominent Labour figures gave clear signals yesterday that the party leadership is moving towards the taxation of child benefit to concentrate resources on the most needy.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, and John Prescott, the deputy leader, used interviews to counter suggestions that Labour may move away from the "universal" principle that the benefit is paid to all. Mr Prescott said he

would fight to protect universal benefits.

Remarks by Tony Blair last week were interpreted as meaning that he might scrap universal child benefit. Mr Blair said that "I do not think that anyone disputes that those earning large sums of money do not really need to have child benefit." But Mr Brown, interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, said the Social Justice Commission had recommended that child benefit should be taxed like every other benefit. He went on: "Now that is what we are looking at

at the moment." He said that Donald Dewar, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, would come forward with proposals.

Mr Brown said: "So in principle there is a case for looking at taxation but what Tony also said was that child benefit would remain a universal benefit paid to all mothers and therefore to all children."

Some Shadow Cabinet members have doubts about the technicalities of taxing child benefit because of the independent taxation system. But Mr Blair is believed to be

pushing hard behind the scenes.

Mr Prescott also made plain that he favoured taxation as an alternative to scrapping universal benefits.

He said that targeting welfare payments would inevitably result in many people who desperately needed help losing out. "You can do it in different ways without changing the principle of universality," he said in an interview for BBC TV's *On the Record* programme. "You can still pay it to those people and remove it in tax payments. You can still keep the principle intact, but then you remove it as income

received by those people who don't need it."

Mr Brown, in his BBC interview, refused to be drawn on whether Labour would vote against any move by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to cut the standard rate of income tax in his November Budget. "We will look at it at the time. You don't rush to instant judgments on taxation. You make them in the light of the economic circumstances."

Neither Mr Brown nor Robin Cook, in a later interview, ruled out the possibility that a Labour government might raise taxes. Mr Brown said: "We have got no plans. We will announce what plans we have at the appropriate time, which is at the election."

Mr Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, later suggested that Labour might not vote against Budget tax cuts. He believed the Chancellor was planning a political trap — with a challenge to Labour to oppose tax cuts so the Tories could then go into the election saying Labour had tried to vote them down. "He could not have signalled up more clearly his political calculation than if he had come to the House of Commons with a large, flashing neon sign saying 'ambush'. It may just be that we won't be stupid enough to drive into the trap," he said.

But Mr Cook acknowledged that a Labour government might have to raise taxes. "We have no plans to raise taxes. But, as has been made perfectly plain, the judgment we make in any one Budget, as to what taxes may have to go up or come down and as to who will pay them, is a judgment that we make on each Budget's case."

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Local party's motion is 'badly flawed'

Blair heading for resounding victory on minimum wage

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TONY BLAIR looks likely to win a resounding victory on the national minimum wage today after trade union leaders split yesterday over a flawed left-wing attempt to set a precise figure.

Labour's conference, which opens today in Brighton, seems certain to back the party leadership proposals for a Low Pay Commission, comprising employers and unions, to advise a future Labour government on a minimum wage. Even if attempts to force Labour into setting a precise figure reach the conference floor, they are likely to be rejected by a small but clear margin.

Close supporters of Mr Blair were delighted last night that he seems to be heading for victory on a major issue that, like his reform of Clause Four this year, has prompted strong opposition from the unions and from party activists.

In Brighton yesterday, Labour leaders seized on the agreement by local constituency party delegates to a compromise resolution that calls for an hourly rate of £4.15 and confuses the arithmetical formulae used to set the unions' target. Left-wing delegates are backing a motion setting a minimum wage at half the median of male workers' earnings, rising to a target of two-thirds of average earnings. Arithmetically, such a target can never be reached since to do so would in turn push up the average and endlessly raise the target.

Delighted with what they saw as a blunder, Labour leadership officials ensured that every union delegation meeting yesterday was aware of it. What had seemed like strong union support for the £4.15 resolution started to melt away.

The biggest blow for the Left came when leaders of one of the main unions pressing for a minimum wage, the TGWU transport union, decided to urge the local party responsible for the motion to remit it. If not the union said that it would vote against the motion.

News of the TGWU's decision caused consternation in other union camps and led to a round of frenzied discussions by officials on the Brighton seafloor and in the hotels, finding it as they tried to adjust their positions.

Strong pressure was brought to bear on local party officials last night to remit their motion, or see it voted down. The unions ready to oppose it include the shopworkers' union Unsway and the AEU engineering union. With others they can probably command about a third of the total conference votes.

The unions ready to back it include Unison and the GMB general union, which with others command about 30 per cent of the votes. Local constituency parties are thought likely to back the TGWU, allowing Mr Blair a close but significant victory.

Bill Morris, TGWU general secretary, said that the union was ready to back a straight £4.15 motion but that the flaws in the available composite made it impossible to approve. However, John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, said that although the motion was flawed, the union's policy was to approve £4.15.

Labour leaders are ready in any case to dismiss the motion if it is carried by the conference, arguing that it is for a Labour government and not the party conference to take such decisions. The divisions in the unions and the Left and the mistakes in resolution will allow them to insist that Mr Blair is correct in refusing to set a figure on the national minimum wage before the general election.

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21



John Prescott with Tony Blair and his wife Cherie at Brighton racecourse for yesterday's Rolling Rose day

Favourites enjoy day at the races

By James Landale, Political Reporter

DONKEY derbies are Old Labour and out. Spotting the fillics on the flat at Brighton racecourse is New Labour and in.

The Labour Party not only went to Brighton racecourse for its first ever Sunday meeting, but also sponsored the event. Hundreds of delegates at the annual conference dragged themselves from fringe meetings and took taxis up the hill from the seafloor for Labour's Rolling Rose day at the races.

The event was the culmination of the eight-month Rolling Rose roadshow aimed at

boosting membership and taking the party to the people.

Stiffing jokes about front-runners and who was holding the reins, Labour leaders took their families out to breathe the sea air and place the odd bet. Mr Blair — thoroughbred, leads from the front but needs big race experience — stalked the paddock. His trainers said he was in good form.

Would the Labour leader be placing a bet? "I haven't had a flutter," he said. "But it has been a great day." Gordon Brown — can be good on the day — would not say if he had had a bet, making clear that he would not talk about uncashed policy commitments.

John Prescott — solid performer but tendency to buck at the reins — was also there. The deputy Labour leader urged punters to avoid a horse called "Navel Gazer" in the first race. "We are trying to get away from that in the Labour Party," he said.

The horse won. Naturally, his wife Patsy had backed it. "She never takes my advice," he said.

He also backed "Wild Rita" in the third, after his

secretary Rita. It lost. However, Mr Prescott was more confident in the last race, in which "Thatcherella" was running. "I am crossing my fingers that she bloody well doesn't come in," he said.

The Rolling Rose team were delighted with the day. At least 60 members had been signed up while Labour sweatshirts and baseball caps sold swiftly. Brighton racecourse was equally pleased.

"Brighton has never been so full," said a lady from the Tote. "The weather has helped, and I suppose the Labour Party has too."

Beware of Tory 'racism' says MEP

By James Landale

LABOUR'S Euro-sceptics were warned yesterday that it would be a "profound mistake" to adopt the Tories' "neo-racist" approach towards Europe.

Wayne David, MEP for South Wales Central and leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party, urged delegates at a fringe meeting instead to go out and sell Labour's "constructive" policies to an increasingly sceptical public.

The move came as the party leadership prepared to stake out Labour's new "Euro-friendly" stance in a policy document to be debated on Tuesday. The document, *The Future of the European Union*, advocates greater scrutiny over the European Commission and Council of Ministers and greater powers for the European Parliament.

"It would be a profound mistake if anyone in the Labour Party believed that Europe was an issue which could be put on the back burner and quietly forgotten about," Mr David said. "It would also be a profound mistake to think that it was morally right or tactically advantageous to follow the nationalist, neo-racist policies of the Tories."

Brown to use windfall tax on jobs for young

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN will today unveil details of Labour's first manifesto spending commitment as he outlines a £1 billion package to end youth unemployment.

Under the proposals, a Labour government would use money from a windfall tax on the electricity and water industries to guarantee work and training for 700,000 young people. The Shadow Chancellor's package of measures will be aimed at all those under 25 who have been unemployed and receiving benefit for more than six months.

The party expects to raise between £25 and £3 billion from the proposed windfall tax, which would be introduced in a first Labour budget. Mr Brown's advisers claim that the scheme to abolish youth unemployment would result in net savings after four or five years as the benefit bill fell. However, they admit that the first year costs could be up to £1 billion. The plan, taken with proposals to help the long-term unemployed who have been out of work for over two years, is expected to eat up most of the revenue from the windfall tax.

Mr Brown's plan includes four main proposals:

□ Private Sector: employers taking on anyone under-25 who has been jobless for over six months would be given a

£60 a week tax rebate for six months on condition that the employee was released for one day a week for further education or training.

□ Voluntary Sector: the young jobless would be paid benefit plus £20 a week for six months if they took jobs in the non-profit or voluntary sector. They would also be expected to do one day a week training or further education.

□ Environmental Task Force: those doing environmental or social work would also get £20 on top of their weekly benefit provided they took up the education offer.

□ Labour would also amend the 16-hour rule which restricts people in full-time education from receiving benefit. Under the new scheme, those under 25 would be able to

attend courses and receive benefit.

Party sources admitted that the scheme would be very costly because of the extra money needed to provide extra places on further education courses covering both fees and capital costs. Mr Brown has based his figures on 400,000 young people a year being unemployed for over six months. But in the first year of the party would also have to take account of 300,000 people already in this position. The calculations have also been based on a £50-a-week minimum payment plus housing benefit and means-tested benefit to be costed on top.

Labour is already committed to ending long-term unemployment for those who have been out of work for over two years. It has pledged a £75 a week rebate to employers who take on the jobless who fall into this category at a cost of £100 million in the first year. Today Mr Brown will make clear that Labour will focus on these two areas of unemployment in the drive to get more people off benefit into work.

Party sources disclosed that a Labour government would also set up an under-25 taskforce in the employment services to monitor the scheme to ensure that employers did not take advantage of the extra state help at the expense of existing employees.



Brown proposing a four-point scheme

Council chief set to defy NEC

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

DAVE CHURCH, the leader of Walsall council, is pressing ahead with plans to decentralise local government after their condemnation by the Labour National Executive Committee last week.

At Labour's annual conference he will be lobbying for support and denouncing an NEC move to force Walsall's district into line. Mr Church will tell delegates at fringe meetings that the past "loony left" behaviour of other councils. He argues that Tony Blair and his party is only implementing a decentralisation policy in line with New Labour thinking. The Walsall district party was suspended in August after allegations of bullying

at meetings, and trade union complaints of lack of consultation over decentralisation. Under the NEC plan, the district party will be reconstituted, with a new annual meeting, and an updated rulebook. The party's regional committee will be put in charge of selecting candidates for the council elections in May.

The NEC has asked for an independent validation of the decentralisation scheme, which involves creating 54 "mini town halls" under locally elected committees. After the conference, three NEC members are to visit Walsall to conciliate with Mr Church and his colleagues.

Mr Church says redundancy notices served on the council's top nine officers still stand, despite strike action by

Unison, and 70 applications have been received for the five new posts.

"We are not abandoning our election manifesto commitment to set up local committees," Mr Church said. "I doubt if the NEC intervention will mean any different candidates are selected. All that has happened is that we are behind schedule in picking the people we want to stand in May's elections. The NEC report is inaccurate in saying we need to consult more. They accuse us of going too fast but we are moving at a snail's pace."

Mr Church says that several party members are seeking an apology from Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, for claiming that bullying tactics were used at district meetings.

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Law lord claims young barristers earn too much

A LAW lord has been accused of making misleading assertions after he complained that some young barristers earned more than he did.

Lord Woolf, whose annual salary is £114,874, told some 350 barristers at their annual conference in London on Saturday that they must reduce their fees or risk "killing the golden goose". He also urged an end to the traditional charging method of a brief fee, topped up by a daily refresher fee for each day in court.

Lord Woolf said: "In some areas of work the Bar has been able to pitch its fees in recent years at levels which could be open to criticism. I know of young men of a few years' experience who are earning more than a law lord." He added: "You can say good luck to them. You may even think they deserve them. But the fact is that just because solicitors will agree those fees does not mean they are justified."

Peter Goldsmith, QC, the chairman of the Bar, said Lord Woolf's comments did not apply to the vast majority of barristers. "There are some senior practitioners, who will include a handful of juniors — not silks, but highly experienced — who will gross more than a law lord. But these

Reports by Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

earnings are gross and they are not out of legal aid. They are in substantial commercial cases where clients are negotiating the fees."

It was "terribly misleading" to suggest that this was what the junior Bar was earning from legal aid when a barrister working in the Crown Court could find himself earning less than £20 an hour, he said.

Lord Woolf, who has already outlined proposals for the biggest upheaval to the civil courts this century, also called for an end to the system

of brief fees and refreshers. Under his proposals, aimed at cutting costs and delays in civil disputes, people should be able to obtain quotes for the cost of their cases going to trial.

He said one of the main proposals was for a new fast-track court for all claims of under £10,000, where the costs would be capped and litigants given a fixed charge for the different stages of litigation. Such fixed fees were increasingly being demanded by big company clients. "The Bar must surely be prepared to

offer fixed fees for the whole of the course of the litigation. Brief fees and daily refreshers must surely have a limited life. Fixed but reasonable costs are to be an element of importance on the new fast track."

Lord Woolf gave a warning that if the Bar did not pitch its fees at competitive levels its members, and especially new entrants, would be excluded from some areas of work. "The high charges sometimes reflect a shortage of members of the Bar with the required expertise, but this is a problem which the profession, through the Bar Council, should tackle in co-operation with the other half of the profession."

Later in the conference, Lord Woolf's comments were echoed by Michael Seymour, president of the London Solicitors' Litigation Association. He said that "the major problem is over brief fees, which are generally regarded as too high, but arise for negotiation when it is too late in practice to change course."

Clients accept that counsel should be paid for what they have done, but it is difficult to accept that they should be paid for what they have not had to do, particularly if they have other work to take its place," he said.

Euro court must stop playing politics, says Cash

BILL CASH, the leading Euro-sceptic MP, demanded curbs on what he called the increasingly political European Court of Justice. The judges were increasingly acting outside their powers in what amounted to "legal-political power playing", he told the conference.

They had a "gargantuan appetite for more power on the basis of increased competencies which they are themselves creating", Mr Cash said. They "seem to think they are on some kind of Messianic mission, which is exceedingly dangerous".

The forthcoming inter-governmental conference would provide the chance to examine the court's powers. He said the current judges were all chosen because they supported the drive towards the federal objective. "Would it not be refreshing if they appointed a Euro-sceptic or Euro-realist?"

He added that when the judges gave their ruling, there was just one judgment, with no separate or dissent-



Lord Howe said the European Court had pioneered some good decisions

ing judgments. They swore to uphold secrecy and there was no right of appeal.

Mr Cash called for measures to stop the court making judgments which were applied retrospectively; for the judges to give attributable and named judgments; and

for all the judges to have had High Court experience — "no politicians, advisers or academics".

Lord Howe of Aberavon said that the European Court had "pioneered decisions of undoubted good sense", despite some controversial rul-

ings. There were two reasons for political dismay: the delay in some member states in implementing EC directives, and the fact that some of the most important court decisions have been in the politically sensitive areas of employment, he said.

Bar chairman rejects reform of legal aid

GOVERNMENT proposals to limit the amount spent on legal aid should be scrapped, Peter Goldsmith, QC, chairman of the Bar, said.

The proposals, contained in a Green Paper issued this year, were "ill-thought out and won't achieve what the Government thinks they will", Mr Goldsmith said. Legal aid costs the Government £1.4 billion a year.

The Lord Chancellor has proposed an overhaul, to control rising costs and to redirect the money to where it is most needed. Mr Goldsmith said the proposals, involving the first cash limits and the awards of legal-aid contracts to law firms and advice bureaux, constituted "short-term, crude and monopolistic" cuts.

However, James Munby, QC, a senior member of the profession, agreed with the thrust of the proposals. Spending on legal aid was increasing "at an unacceptable and unsustainable rate". For years, the Lord Chancellor had been giving the profession a "blank cheque, and the money has not been spent wisely. We have to accept that total legal-aid expenditure is rising too fast, that it must be brought under control, and that the guiding principle must be value for the taxpayers' money," he said.

Mr Munby called for a series of reforms: the resolution of certain cases by out-of-court methods, such as mediation, arbitration or ombudsmen; increased use of non-lawyers or paralegals, with advice agencies providing a greater first port-of-call service; and the eradication of so-called Spanish practices. These included the unnecessary use of two counsel; having a solicitor



Goldsmith said moves were ill-considered

or his clerk attending on counsel; all the lawyers for all the parties attending throughout a long trial; and unnecessary pre-trial preparation and "undue proximity" in court.

He added that there was no reason why the profession should not be paid through fixed fees. He called for funding — as proposed in the Green Paper — by law centres and or advice agencies.

Marlene Winfield, of the National Consumer Council, said that using block contracts for legal aid would increase the potential for political control of access to justice. "The proposals for contracting and block funding should not be put at risk by being ill-thought out. The reforms need to be approached in stages. Franchising, either of solicitors or of advice agencies, should not be extended until we know it is working properly."

Proposals to audit the success rates of lawyers "must not reward the taking on of easy, safe and uncontroversial cases at the expense of the difficult and those important in defining the boundaries of the law and public interest."

Vision of the future courtroom

A FORECAST of the changing legal world in the year 2000 — featuring wireless judges, shorter speeches by barristers in court and more use of written arguments — was outlined by Mr Justice Potter, the judge in charge of the Commercial Court lists.

The Commercial Court, which celebrates its centenary today, was now in the vanguard of changes inside the legal profession, he said, and already practised the kind of case management by judges being proposed by Lord Woolf.

But the next few years would see further reform, he claimed. "I foresee a position in which we will move to a system where oral submissions are under time limits, thus increasing the limits of written advocacy."

"Cross-examination is likely to be placed under similar time constraints and it may

QC urges training for judges

LORD WOOLF's plans to turn judges into trial managers cannot work unless millions are put into training judges, Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, a senior libel lawyer and former Bar chairman, said. The Woolf proposals envisage judges managing cases, setting time limits and identifying key issues.

Lord Williams, a Labour peer, said the system of appointing judges was amateur and the training system was even worse. "One week's training every five years for a man or woman with that degree of power is absurd." He called for the Judicial Studies Board, which oversees training on a small budget, to be expanded into a Judicial Studies Commission, under a senior judge and with a chief executive.

"Lord Alexander of Weedon QC, another former Bar chairman and a Tory peer, said he was 'very sceptical' that the

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Klerk threaten
quit Cabinet
Mandela row

free for life

Abacha pledges return to civilian rule in Nigeria

FROM INUGO GEMORE IN LASOS

THE Nigerian military ruler, General Sani Abacha, moved yesterday to ease international and domestic pressure on his beleaguered regime, promising to commute sentences on 40 alleged coup plotters and detailing a programme for the transfer of power to civilian rule in 1998.

In consideration for the earnest pleas of our friends and in the spirit of national reconciliation which has been the centre piece of this administration's policy, [the] Government has decided to commute the sentences on the coup plotters. General Abacha said during a radio and television broadcast to mark Nigeria's thirty-fifth independence anniversary. "This situation will be reviewed at the appropriate time."

The conviction of 40 people at a secret military tribunal earlier this year drew international condemnation and appeals for clemency from the Pope and Boutros Boutros-Gali, the United Nations Secretary-General. Those convicted include General Oseguwa Obasanjo, the former head of

state, and Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, his former deputy, who was reported to have been among 14 sentenced to death. Critics of the Abacha regime accused it of dreaming up the coup plot last March to crack down on pro-democracy campaigners and divert pressure for the return to civilian rule. All previous coup trials in Nigeria have led to some executions and yesterday's historic reprieve was hailed by



General Abacha refuses to release Chief Abiola

Western diplomatic officials as an encouraging development. However, their positive response was tempered by General Abacha's silence on the details of prison sentences for the coup plotters and his continued intransigence over calls for the release from jail of Chief Moshood Abiola. The multimillionaire entrepreneur is widely believed to have won the presidential election in 1993 which was annulled by the military. Charged with treason by the regime, his case has stalled in court and appeals for his release have been brushed aside.

General Abacha said Chief Abiola was not a political prisoner and restated his view that the case was judicial. Kudirat, the chief's senior wife, responded yesterday that the trial would be prejudged and called for Western governments to impose sanctions on Nigeria to press for his release.

There have been growing calls for wide-ranging economic sanctions against Nigeria in recent months. Relations between Britain and Nigeria

are at a low point and last month John Major refused to see the country's Foreign Minister during his visit to Britain.

Observers in Nigeria were surprised about the depth of detail of the proposed programme leading to civilian rule by October 1, 1998, and said the concessions offered could bring a large part of the political class on board.

General Abacha lifted the ban on two newspapers groups — including Chief Abiola's Concord — which were prescribed last year, and promised a series of elections at all levels of government, culminating in a presidential vote in the third quarter of 1998. He also said the Government had approved the principle of rotating the presidency among six zones in the country.

Rebel group formed: Wole Soyinka, the exiled Nigerian Nobel prize-winner for literature, said in London on Saturday that the underground National Liberation Council of Nigeria had been formed with the aim of ousting the Abacha regime. (Reuters)



Captain Combo Ayoubu, centre, parades through Moroni, the capital of the Comoros, after taking power

French warships put pressure on Comoros

BY SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRANCE has sent warships to its former colony, the Comoros, after last week's coup led by Colonel Bob Denard, the French mercenary. Officially, the ships are part of an operation to protect the 1,500 French citizens in the Indian Ocean

islands, but observers say the vessels have been sent as a warning to Colonel Denard and his mercenaries to leave.

France has condemned last Thursday's coup, cut off economic aid, and put its troops on standby amid calls for military intervention by the Comoros Government. Insiders say Paris is hoping that, by stepping up pressure on Colonel Denard, it will be able to avoid military interven-

tion. Island opposition parties have hailed President Djohar's overthrow and given qualified backing to Captain Combo Ayoubu's Transitional Military Committee, which has promised free elections next year.

But many of the 450,000 islanders are clearly opposed to Colonel Denard, 66. Captain Combo has said the deposed President is safe in his custody.

De Klerk threatens to quit Cabinet after Mandela row

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE personal relationship between President Mandela and F.W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President and leader of the National Party, has plummeted to a new low after a public confrontation between the two Nobel Peace Prize laureates. The flare-up followed a business banquet that they both attended in Johannesburg.

In an address to leading businessmen on Friday night, Mr Mandela declared that those who blamed his Government for South Africa's crime wave were being dishonest. He said the situation had been inherited from the apartheid era and National Party governments that had deployed 80 per cent of police resources in all-white areas.

The President is believed to have told his aides to ask Mr de Klerk to see him after the speech. However, the two men left the function together and confronted each other in the street. Mr Mandela was seen waving his finger before the two men exchanged a brief handshake and got into their cars.

In a statement on Saturday, Mr de Klerk said he would seek an early meeting with Mr Mandela for "serious and straight talk at leadership

level". He indicated that he was again reconsidering whether to remain in the Government of National Unity. However, a spokesman for Mr Mandela said: "The President will not respond to blackmail." The remarks on the crime wave had not been directed personally at Mr de Klerk but at the National Party, the spokesman added.

Earlier this year, Mr de Klerk threatened to walk out of the Government after Mr Mandela disclosed details of a pre-election indemnity granted by Mr de Klerk's administration to thousands of policemen and two former Cabinet ministers for possible apartheid-era crimes.

ANC insiders say that Mr de Klerk, while being a brilliant political manager, "is pedantic and has not taken easily to being number three. Madiba [Mr Mandela] gets irritated with this."

In his statement on Saturday, Mr de Klerk said he objected to the fact that Mr Mandela had used a non-political platform for party political purposes. It is unlikely that there will be any lessening of the tension until well after the local government elections scheduled for November 1.



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FBI called in after Palestinian dies in police custody

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE FBI is to join the investigation into the death of a Palestinian American grocer who died while being interrogated by one of the six shadowy secret police forces working for Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, Israel radio said yesterday.

There have been five previous deaths of Palestinians in the hands of the new Gaza-Jericho security services. However, the death in custody of Azzam Mosleh, 52, who lived in Dallas, Texas, has done more than any other to focus international attention on allegations that heavy-handed tactics, including torture, are becoming standard practice in the newly autonomous Palestinian areas.

The death of Mosleh 36 hours after he was taken by six plainclothes PLO security agents from a coffee shop in the West Bank village of Ein Yabroud was officially attributed to a heart attack brought on by the heat in Jericho. Relations dismissed the claim

despite attempts by the PLO secret services to silence them.

The dead man's son, Shaheed, 20, said that he believed his father was tortured in detention. "There are signs of beatings and cigarette burns on the body," he said. Other witnesses said that cuts, welts, bruises and evidence of bleeding from the ear were also visible.

Human rights campaigners, who are concerned at the abuses taking place in Mr Arafat's name, said yesterday that without the United States connection, the death probably would have rated little attention. As it is, the PLO leader is under pressure to provide the Clinton Administration with a detailed account of how it came about.

"This is not an auspicious beginning," said Kathleen Riley, the US Consul in Jerusalem, referring to the new Israeli-PLO accord extending Palestinian rule to the West Bank. At the exact time it was being signed in Washington, Mr Mosleh, whose relative

wealth had earned him the nickname of "the millionaire" in Ein Yabroud, his home village where he returned every year, was being questioned in Jericho.

The Palestinian security services, whose net will be spreading to all the main Palestinian towns in the West Bank over the next six months, had already been accused of systematic torture. Among cases cited by the human rights watchdog B'Tselem were that of a 24-year-old Palestinian woman who was sprayed with teargas and had hot wax poured on her body in an attempt to force her to confess that she had collaborated with, and had sexual intercourse with, two Israelis.

She said that twice during her interrogation her nipples were pulled with piners. She added: "They asked me to take my clothes off, except for my underwear. They tied my hand and one leg and hung me from a tree. They beat me all over with a stick and rubber hoses."

Settlers blockade frontier crossing

By Christopher Walker

PROTESTS by militant Jews spread to the Jordan Valley yesterday when more than 100 settlers opposed to the impending extension of Palestinian self-rule to the occupied West Bank blocked entry to the Allenby Bridge crossing into Jordan for several hours.

Hundreds of travellers were delayed and traffic across the bridge stopped for most of the morning until police intervened to drag the protesters away. About 12 were arrested, but according to Israel's army radio network, most were quickly released.

In the past, residents of the Jordan Valley's mainly agricultural settlements have not joined in militant protests, and the latest development is a sign of trouble to come among the 140,000 West Bank settlers as the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed last week is implemented.

Over the weekend, settlers also went on the rampage



An Israeli policewoman grapples with one of the Jewish protesters who blocked a Jordanian border point yesterday

against Palestinians in Hebron where several thousand Jewish outsiders flocked to demonstrate solidarity. On Saturday, about 100 Jews marched, chanting "Slaughter the Arabs", and attacked two American women from a Christian peace group who tried to film the demonstra-

tion. The Israeli military police confirmed yesterday that a military anti-riot squad had been formed to deal with the expected growth in violence between the settlers and the authorities, and the settlers and the Palestinians, as the plan to move Israeli troops out of West Bank

towns is put into effect. "Once troops around the towns of Ramallah and Hebron are moved, things are very likely to escalate," one senior officer said.

Near the Allenby Bridge, one settler called Liora said: "The Jordan Valley has been abandoned. All the terrorists and killers are free to come and go and kill anybody in the settlements."

Jordan Valley settlers revealed that, like those in traditionally more militant parts of the occupied West Bank, they were setting up a vigilante force to operate when troops pull back.

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Balance	£7,372	£10,000	£11,032
Total Charges for Credit ³	£1,755.18	£2,393.35	£2,599.68
Total Credit Price	£10,970.18	£14,393.35	£16,389.68
Term (months)	25	25	25
Number of Monthly Payments	24	24	24
Monthly Payments	£216.57	£299.55	£333.97
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Algerian gunmen kill 18

Rabat: Algerian gunmen murdered 18 people, including three children, and injured 13 yesterday when they attacked a bus carrying civilians near Laghouat, 255 miles south of the capital, Algiers (Mark Hubbard writes).

A government security forces' statement said that in the ensuing battle their troops killed four of the gunmen. Yesterday's slaughter brings to at least 20 the number of people killed in Algeria in the past two days. A car bomb exploded on Saturday near a security officers' residential complex in the northwestern town of Tipaza, killing two people and wounding 22. Both attacks are assumed to be the work of Islamic militants whose campaign against Algeria's military-backed regime has intensified since President Zeroual announced a presidential election for November 16.

Gore's daughter caught in raid

Washington: Sarah Gore, the 16-year-old daughter of Al Gore, the American Vice-President, was one of 12 teenagers cited by police for possession of alcohol at a party in Chevy Chase, a suburb of Washington (Ian Brodie writes). The authorities have been cracking down on drinking under the legal age of 21. She was holding an open can of beer in a car outside the party, the police said.

Shift to right in Latvia poll

Moscow: As polls closed in Latvia, pundits predicted victory going to two right-wing parties — the Farmers' Union and the Latvian National Conservative Party (Richard Beeston writes). Whoever comes out on top in the 100-seat parliament, some form of coalition government seems inevitable in this tiny Baltic state.

Macau voters snub election

Lisbon: Nearly nine in 10 voters in the tiny enclave of Macau — which reverts to Chinese rule at the end of 1999 — abstained in Portugal's general elections, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported. The results of their emigrant vote will be known on October 11. (Reuters)

Scorpions menace Gaddafi's deportees

By Our Middle East Correspondent

A HUMANITARIAN crisis with diplomatic implications is looming on the desert border between Libya and Egypt. About 800 Palestinians, expelled by Tripoli as a gesture against the Middle East peace process, are gathered there in conditions described by the United Nations as "desperate".

The new Palestinian camp has been forming in a scorpion-infested strip of desert no man's land between the two countries at Salloum. A Libyan diplomat in Cairo said yesterday that 5,000 more of the 24,000 Palestinians remaining in the country will be expelled this week.

The potential of the problem was demonstrated over the weekend when witnesses at the remote spot west of the desert battlefields of El Alamein reported that the Libyans had moved 170 tents, each capable of housing ten people, into the area. Most of those stranded have no money and little proper food.

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, originally ordered the mass expulsions on September 1 as a way of demonstrating that the latest peace deal between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel has not solved the Palestinian problem. Most of the deportees who arrived over the past 48 hours were women and children sent by bus the 750 miles from Tripoli.

Most have been refused entry to Egypt, which has tried in vain to persuade the unpredictable Libyan leader to reverse his expulsion policy. A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said children in the new refugee camp had been struck down with gastric problems and, because of the scorpions, many were unable to sleep. "We are appealing to the Libyan Government to stop expelling and stop relocation of Palestinians within the country until a solution can be reached," said Panos Mountzias, of the UNHCR.

Witnesses at Salloum said yesterday that one group of deportees began to chant, for Libyan television cameras, slogans condemning the Israeli-Palestinian accord signed in Washington last Thursday. "Down with the agreement, no to capitulation" was one. Another went: "We shall free our land with weapons."

The reality of the camp is that many residents have been desperately begging food from travellers.

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A POLYMERIZATION process developed by the University of California at Los Angeles has been used to produce a plastic material that is transparent to infrared light. The material is a polyethylene derivative, and is being developed for use in the manufacture of infrared-transparent plastic lenses and windows for aircraft and space vehicles.

The 1974-1975 season was a very dry one, with only 12 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1976-1977 season was a very wet one, with 42 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1978-1979 season was a very dry one, with only 10 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1980-1981 season was a very wet one, with 40 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1982-1983 season was a very dry one, with only 8 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1984-1985 season was a very wet one, with 38 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1986-1987 season was a very dry one, with only 6 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1988-1989 season was a very wet one, with 36 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1990-1991 season was a very dry one, with only 4 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1992-1993 season was a very wet one, with 34 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1994-1995 season was a very dry one, with only 2 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1996-1997 season was a very wet one, with 32 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 1998-1999 season was a very dry one, with only 1 inch of rain falling in the entire season. The 2000-2001 season was a very wet one, with 30 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2002-2003 season was a very dry one, with only 0.5 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2004-2005 season was a very wet one, with 28 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2006-2007 season was a very dry one, with only 0.2 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2008-2009 season was a very wet one, with 26 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2010-2011 season was a very dry one, with only 0.1 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2012-2013 season was a very wet one, with 24 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2014-2015 season was a very dry one, with only 0.05 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2016-2017 season was a very wet one, with 22 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2018-2019 season was a very dry one, with only 0.02 inches of rain falling in the entire season. The 2020-2021 season was a very wet one, with 20 inches of rain falling in the entire season.

The second of the two main parts of the book is a detailed study of the various forms of the word 'God' in the Bible. The author shows how the word is used in different contexts and how its meaning has changed over time. This part is also very helpful for understanding the different ways in which the word is used in different parts of the Bible.

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A black and white photograph showing a large crowd of people, possibly at a political rally or protest. In the foreground, a banner is visible with the text "Solidarity Through Struggle" and "Solidarity Through Struggle" repeated. The crowd is dense, and the image is somewhat grainy.

 **NatWest**
More than just a bank

Last piece in the musical puzzle

Great experimenter: Messiaen conducts a rehearsal in London in 1986. His last work was completed by his wife

CBSO/Rattle
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham

smoothed off, syncopeations blunted, and repeats reduced to echo and imitation, this performance of the Symphony No 4, the "Tragic", was a mirror image of the super-cool mien of its conductor whom, it seems, little could surprise or delight.

By halving the long-fabled slow movement, this heavy downbeat of its central minor key section as anodyne in character as its frame, one was forced into questioning exactly what might be the positive nature of Maazel's contribution. When ensemble is so faultless, cues and articulation so assured, the only missing ingredients — those of lively, exploratory listening, freshness of response and brightness of imagination — may well have been stimulated by the absence of any conductor at all.

The three *Leonores*, is in a different key and, though intended for basically the same opera, has little in common with the others. Maazel no doubt chose to perform the *Fidelio* between *Leonore* Nos 2 and 3 in order to separate the works which are so much alike that, for an audience new to these things, hearing them in close succession might be like hearing the same work twice over.

But, surely, as Rattle seemed to indicate in introducing this "experiment" in Symphony Hall, the main point of it is to observe the creative mind at work to structure the development in time, to create the dramatic material after a year's high-quality Beethoven thought.

He might have been better advised to abandon the Mahler precedent and either open the concert with the *Fidelio*, reserving the second half for the three *Leonores* in numeri-

have been inescapably clear.

Where it was, and brilliantly performed though it was, the *Fidelio* was out of place. Inevitably, *Leonore* No 1 was overshadowed, although the world would have been a better place if the performance had been as well finished as that of *Leonore* No 3.

Even at its best, however, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra was not well prepared on this occasion as in the first concert in the cycle last week. But it was the same interpretative mind at work and the same care for sound in its period context.

hearing the Second Symphony, such finely drawn lines in the slow movement, such grotesque humour in the scherzo and such rhythmic lightning throughout was an experience as refreshing as the cycle intended to provide.

HILARY FINCH

GERALD LARNE

[illegible]

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Chris Anderson

EROS in Chichester Graham Turner gives a delightful performance as Moscov in *Onegin* and Frani Havel in *Don Juan*.

Theatre Royal, Swansea 01252 448844 Mon-Wed 7.00pm Thurs-Sat 8pm matrs Wed and Sat 3.00pm

GLASGOW The Japanese *Wadokoro Ichiro Drummers* return to the UK for two-month tour. After taking last year's tour to Japan, they are back in Scotland. An explosively choreographed combination of 1,500 years of tradition with contemporary styling. Tickets at the Royal Concert Hall, E. John St, Glasgow 0141 225 1151. Tonight 8pm. Fri-Sat 7pm. Sun 3pm. Enquiries 0181 965 2424. Wed-Sat.

MANCHESTER Opening night for Jonathan Harvey's most recent effort *Rupert Street Lonely Hearts Club* is in at East London based, a pair of Liverpool brothers are two parts of a complete polygon of emotional yearnings. Join Burgess directs

[illegible]

MAYOR Richmond (0171-932 0030)
MINISTER OF DEFENCE Brown (0171-932 3861)
MPs (0171-932 3696)

DOLores CLAIRONE (18)
Powerful Stephen King adaptation, with
Kathy Bates as the wife and mother
who kills her husband. Director: Brian
Leigh. Release: Tuesday. Stars: Kathy
Bates, Michael Caine, John Goodman.
MGM Pathway Road (0171-792 3536) **B**

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD (15)
Gunslinger Sharon Stone versus bad
man Gene Hackman. Dull and over-
the-top. Director: James Fargo.
Odeon West End (0171-492 9157/4 UCI
Whitneys) (0171-792 3328) **C-**

THE USUAL SUSPECTS (R)
Crime-thriller romp about the misad-
ventures of crime from a powerful new
director (Brian Singer). A strong cast
including Kevin Spacey, Stephen Baldwin
and Gabriel Byrne.
Electric (0171-792 2020) MGM:
Preston Road (0171-792 3536)
Haymarket (0171-493 1527)

Starbuck's Avenue (0171-493 6362) **B**

THE TALENTED MR RYAN (PG)
(17/1 2121) Screen/Silver Screen (0171-
792 2722 UCI Whitneys) (0171-792
3328) **A**

WILLIE YOU WERE SLEEPING
(PG) Sandra Bullock poses as the
fiancee of a corruptive hunk. Aggressive
and funny. Director: Peter Gallagher.
Pathway Road (0171-792 3536)
Palladium and Peter Gallagher. Director,
Iris Tentaville.

THE YOUNG MAN IN THE FUR COAT
(U) (0171-792 3536) **B**

Starbuck's Avenue (0171-493 6362)
Odeon Kensington (01493 94866)
Odeon Leicester Square (0171-492 9157)
UCI Whitneys (0171-792 3328) **B**

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SAT 4A-6A:02 (on Day) Tue 11
DITL 9:17 5:17 (no fee)
(no) DITL 5:17 5:17 (no fee)
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Original 29 at 7:00

BRIAN CONLEY

"JOLSON"
"you can't steal nothing" yet"
"watch me, I'm a wolf!"
"JOLSON"
Engle-Mann Set 7:30,
Main Ward S Set 3:00

WYNDHAM: 50 & up 17:35
BAGDAD SMITH
SARA KESTELMAN
SAMANTHA BOND
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The seer who had to take a second look

Matthew d'Ancona on why Francis Fukuyama has decided that history has not come to an end, after all

How do you write a sequel to a book declaring the end of history? It is more than five years since Francis Fukuyama first argued that the great ideological debates of the past were over and that liberal democracy and capitalism had won. For a while, his name was synonymous with the brief flush of global optimism that followed the end of the Cold War. He was feted as the first seer and intellectual founding father of the New World Order.

Things look a little different now. The break-up of Yugoslavia, the horror of Rwanda and the West's spiralling social malaise have cast a baleful shadow over his optimistic theory that political and economic institutions around the world are converging inexorably. The day I visited him in Washington, the weekly magazine *The Nation* was enthusiastically declaring "The End of Fukuyama" on its cover. Needless to say, this is not a verdict he accepts — although he admits that the rise of ethnic nationalism around the world and the decline of race relations in America have "given him pause".

Cleverly, the Rand analyst and former State Department adviser has moved on from the Hegelian thesis that made him world-famous to fresh intellectual territory. In his new book, *Trust*, which will be the subject of a *Times/Dillons* debate later this month, he looks at the cultural setting of economic life and argues that "economic" is grounded in social life and cannot be understood separately from the larger question of how modern societies "organise themselves". What, he asks, is the "secret single-battle America" may not win in the Middle East, but which it must win in the West?

Secret, he argues, is that which is not explored, not understood, not acknowledged and not ideological. *Trust* is a survey of the opposite, the diversity of cultural habits of different nations which explain their economic success and social cohesion — or the lack of it.

"We all know we are going to be living in liberal democracies" and capitalist systems plugged into the global economy," he says. "The real ground of interest is going to shift elsewhere. It's not going to be things like ideology and institutions. It's going to be things like civil society and culture because those have not con-



Francis Fukuyama, now for the culture wars

verged around the world to the same degree and in many ways I don't think they are going to converge either."

Nations will succeed if they have what Fukuyama calls "spontaneous sociability", the capacity to form the associations and achieve the ethical consensus which underpins competitiveness. An economy, he says, is "trustworthy". What, he asks, is the "secret single-battle America" may not win in the Middle East, but which it must win in the West?

Fukuyama has been described as the archetypal post-modern political theorist. But *Trust* is to a great extent a defence of pre-modern aspects of our civilisation. "A modern democracy is not self-suffi-

cient," he says. "It requires the survival of certain pre-modern institutions to be viable. Those include things like religion and family and certain historical institutions, ethnic consciousness and so on. They are the glue that holds together a modern society."

Nothing new in this contention of course. These days, every political sage worth his salt is writing about civic society and the intermediate institutions between citizen and State. What sets Fukuyama apart are his counter-intuitive and sometimes iconoclastic conclusions. Our approach to the State, he argues, is too ideological and takes insufficient account of cultural difference. Korean interventionism worked to that country's advantage, in a way that state interference did not in many Western countries.

Orthodox neo-classical economists say the market is everything and that the State always produces inefficiency. Fukuyama says "What is missing from this debate is an awareness of culture. The issue is in what cultures is the State necessary and effective?"

He argues, likewise, that the global debate over the role of the family has been far too simplistic. "In terms of the American debate, I'm a big family values man," he says. "The United States has a really serious problem with single-parent families and a lot of social pathologies are related to the breakdown of the nuclear family. But there are other societies in the world, like China, where it remains the case that the family is too strong in many respects."

Chinese society is a loose tray of sand, Japan's is granite

Chinese society, he says, is "a loose tray of sand" — in contrast to Japan's piece of granite. Paradoxically, the strength of Chinese family ties is a national weakness which has slowed the transition to a modern management culture and the development of professional loyalties. We should fear the dragon less than we think.

Herein lies the coded political message of *Trust*. Though it is primarily a work of economics, it is also a challenge to Western pessimism about the threat of the East. Fukuyama disputes the existence of homogeneous "Asian values". *Trust* is in part an exploration of the profound differences which separate the great Pacific societies.

He also attacks the argument that the authoritarian capitalism of Singapore is the true face of the future — an argument that is gaining ground in Western political salons. "There's a lot of laziness in the West so that people just accept Lee Kuan Yew's claim that Confucianism is hostile to democracy. In my view it's neutral to political systems," he says.

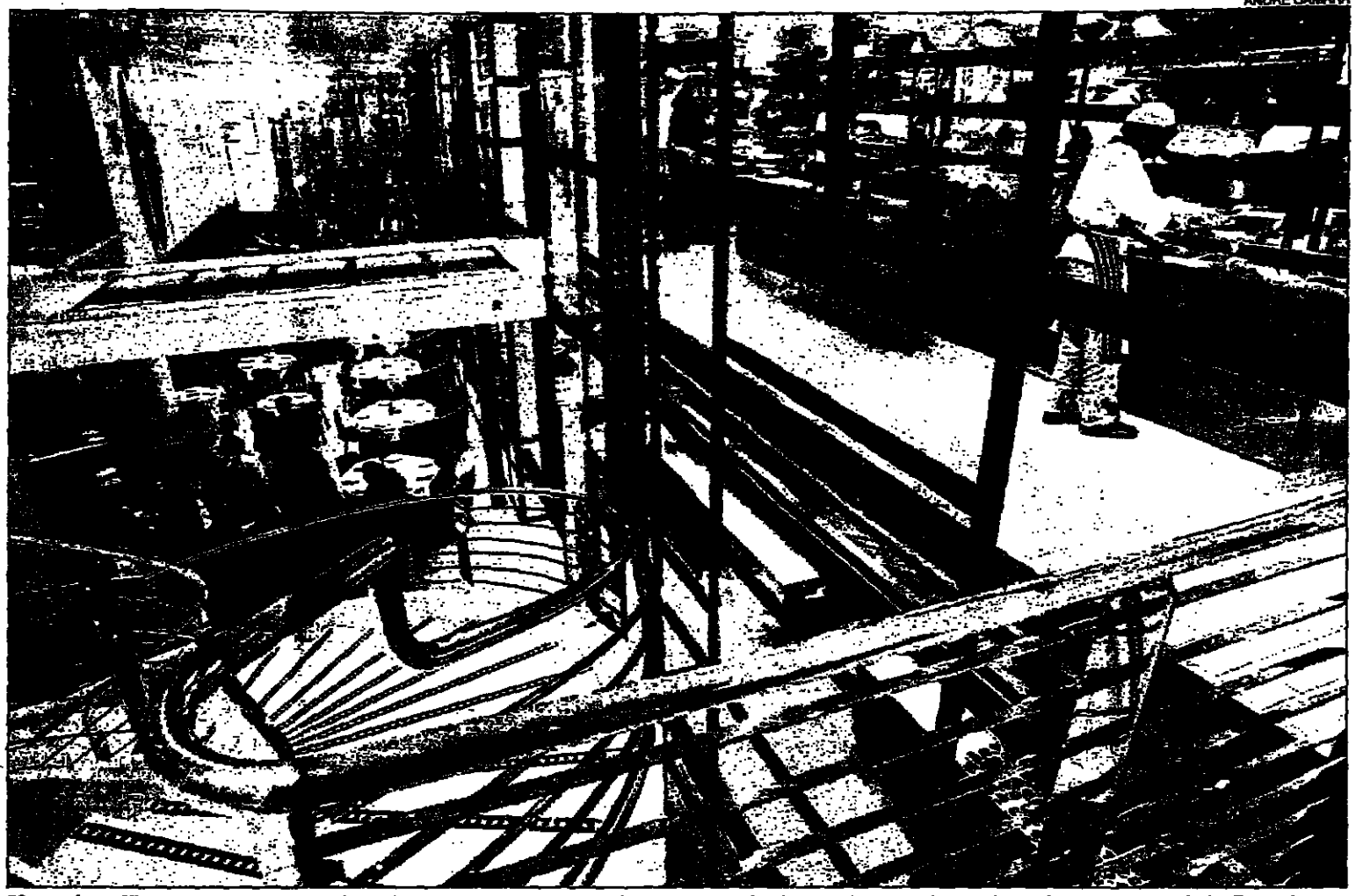
"Everybody knew that it was possible to have capitalism and authoritarianism mixed together. There have been lots of cases of that: Taiwan, South Korea, Brazil. That was never an issue. The real question is where all these authoritarian countries are going to be in another 25 years if they keep developing. Never a man to shy away from prophecy, Fukuyama predicts that Singapore will look more like democratising Taiwan in a quarter of a century than vice versa.

He foresees an almighty series of cultural wars in which the world's societies will seek to resolve these questions of social organisation: America's internal battle over political correctness is just one example. "Worst of all are going to be the former communist countries because there you have a total cutting out of civil society. Out of that ground it will be very hard for social solidarities to gel."

In his own future lies a book on the information revolution. I asked if he ever thought of tackling a smaller subject and the idea clearly struck him as extraordinary. Here is a man who relishes big brush-strokes and intends to keep making them. History may be over, but for a guru in a hurry it is business as usual.

© Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity is published by Hamish Hamilton (£25) on October 16.

Julia Llewellyn Smith felt the heat of the latest Conran eaterie



If you don't like the heat, stay out of this kitchen: Mezzanine's daily double shift of 50 chefs each aims to have food on the table in five minutes

A cleaver hacks through hunks of fatty duck, noodles sizzle on the stove. The crust is trimmed from a lump of steaming rice and the sweet scent of basil fills the air. Friday lunchtime at Mezzanine, the biggest restaurant in Europe, and John Torode, the chef, is getting sweaty. "One noodle, one duck, one tuna!" he bellows. "Yes chef," chorus 20 voices. "Fish cakes, how long?" he barks. "Now," says a French accent. "Now? You bloody lying French bastard! Trays? I need some trays, sweetie. I want to serve some food."

Across the glass-covered bridge, in Mezzanine, the upstairs fast-food section, *le tout Soho* is tucking into Thai fish cakes, cucumber and sweet chilli, and seared salmon and green mango salad. They have taken a ticket at reception and waited at the bar until their number appears on a television screen. Waiters punch orders into hand-held terminals with a radio frequency, and the orders are transmitted to a base set and broadcast to the kitchen, where they come spewing out of a printer. The aim is to have food on the table in five minutes.

Down the tweeping staircase in Mezzanine, 350 people are congratulating each other on being among the first to eat at "the new Conran". Everyone is good-looking, everyone is wearing little black suits, making it impossible to distinguish customers from staff. "It looks," says one diner, "like a trendy airport lounge." In the kitchen, chicken is turning on a spit; cod is changing colour on the grill. "I didn't realise what so many covers would be like," says Chris Galvin, the head chef. "Once you get going, there is no time to think."

Mezzanine has been open for a week and, even though there have been no teething disasters on the Quaglin's scale (the fat fryer burst into flames

Scallops for 1,600 please, and fast



Chef John Torode: "Quick, mop, NOW!"

and nearly destroyed the restaurant), Sir Terence has given warning that things will take "a few months" to settle down. "We are only human," says Galvin with a rueful smile.

Already the telephone system has collapsed, making it almost impossible to get through. Three telephonists sit in a windowless box fielding constant calls, tapping bookings into a computer. "Good afternoon. Mezzo, sorry to keep you waiting," they chirrup. "I'm sorry madam, we can't book a table for more than ten people." On the wall, a sign reads: "Mezzanine is our non-reservation restaurant serving food that is fast with Asian influences. Mezzo serves contemporary, robust, international food."

In Mezzo café next door, more waits in black sip cappuccino and nibble on baguettes from the in-house bakery. In the washing-up area, dirty plates are fed by conveyor into stainless steel dishwashers. Crates of deep purple

aubergines are being unloaded from the deliveries lift. In the preparation kitchens, chefs are peeling mountains of garlic while a var of veal stock bubbles gently. The kitchen gets through 80 veal bones a day, a figure not broadcast to the politically-correct clientele. "That's the basis for all our meat sauces," a chef explains.

More than 50 chefs have been working since 7.30am; their shift will finish at 3pm, when another 50 take over. "This is the first day I have had more than four hours sleep in two weeks," says the pale Torode. "We push them to the hilt, we really do." More than 1,000 chefs were interviewed for 107 jobs. "It was a struggle to find good people," says Colin Clague, the sous-chef in Mezzo. "So few youngsters are trained these days. They buy everything in portioned-up packages and we have to teach them about butchery and fishmongery."

By 8pm, the bar upstairs is packed; downstairs the customers have changed significantly from the lunchtime business crowd. Now the mood is more wannabe Goldie Hawn, with a smattering of what looks like retired BBC sports presenters. A cigarette girl with velvet-clad pointy breasts circles the tables, selling her wares at a fever's pace. A receptionist deftly sneers an inebriated businessman back to his red chair, where he slumps, head in hands, while his companion chats up the girls next door.

Mezzanine, 100 Wardour Street, London W1V 3LE (0171-314 4000, fax 0171-314 4040)

Trust: the secret of economic success?

THE most important issue facing industrial democracies is economic competitiveness. What makes some countries more successful than others? Are some nations blessed with the Midas touch?

Francis Fukuyama's latest book, *Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity*, targets the world of business and global trade. He will argue at this *Times/Dillons* debate that trust between business people is the secret of economic success. A country's social and cultural characteristics determine its prosperity. Philosophers John Gray and Roger Scruton will debate this bold thesis with Fukuyama.

Chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, the debate is on Wednesday October 18 at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1, at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10, which includes £2 off Fukuyama's book, are available by telephoning 0121-703 8113/8114, by faxing the coupon below on 0121-703 8109, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to Dillons Marketing, Royal House, Prince's Gate, Homer Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3SA.

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DEATH OF AN EMU

A stable Europe must now be built without a single currency

As of this morning, the future of Europe has been transformed. Helmut Kohl's declaration that monetary union is "probably not for this century" may sound to many readers like nothing more than a casual assertion of pragmatic common sense. But in the looking-glass world of European diplomacy, Herr Kohl's decision to utter an unwelcome truth about EMU is a shattering event.

After the Major summit last weekend failed to heal the split between Germany, France and Italy over the prospects for EMU, Herr Kohl's deep personal commitment to the single currency represented the Euro-federalists' last great hope. He could have reprimanded his Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, for casting doubt on other countries' ability to qualify for monetary union. He could, at least, have undermined his long-standing personal commitment to a special partnership, above and beyond Maastricht, between Germany and France. Instead Herr Kohl has decided to shatter the illusion of Maastricht, and to do so publicly at the most sensitive possible time.

Why did Herr Kohl do this? Perhaps he was irritated beyond endurance by President Chirac's neo-Gaullist nationalism — as evidenced not only in France's nuclear testing, but even more by M. Chirac's refusal to implement the Schengen treaty on ending border controls. Perhaps Herr Kohl's decision was inspired by his legendary rapport with the German people, who have suddenly become deeply alarmed by the effects of EMU on their personal savings.

Whatever Herr Kohl's motivation, the implications of his demarche are clear. Until yesterday's comments it was still possible to believe that Herr Kohl's personal passion for the Franco-German partnership would encourage him to manipulate the strict economic criteria agreed at Maastricht in order to let France join a single currency in 1999. The Chancellor would then deploy his unique brand of political salesmanship to persuade the German public, the par-

liament and the Constitutional Court to accept this fudge. Now this is impossible.

Herr Kohl will now be held by the German people to the promises he has unambiguously made. He will not be able to let France participate in a single currency in 1999 unless it can satisfy the strict criteria agreed at Maastricht — and this is almost impossible. But if France were excluded from participating with Germany in EMU, then it would clearly be a geopolitical disaster of major proportions for the project to go ahead.

For EMU to be delayed beyond 1999, however, would be almost as perilous as for Germany to go ahead without France. Without a clear target date for EMU, it will become even more difficult for French politicians to justify the immense economic sacrifices involved in defending a clearly overvalued French franc and remaining subservient to a monetary policy made in Frankfurt. Hitting the fiscal convergence criteria agreed at Maastricht will not become any easier in the next decade. If, as is almost certain, the entire world economy is hit by another recession some time early in the next decade, all hope of reducing the French budget deficit to Maastricht levels would disappear. More importantly, there will be a new generation leading Europe. Less dominated by the scars of the Second World War they are unlikely to have the same faith in the Euro-federalist project as Herr Kohl.

In sum, it is now almost impossible to imagine a sequence of events that will lead to a monetary union in Europe in the foreseeable future. The slogan of the Euro-federalists has long been that "Europe will be built on a single currency or it will not be built at all". For all those who care about a prosperous, stable and peaceful Europe, that slogan, and the thinking behind it, must now be overturned. A stable, co-operative and prosperous Europe must now be built without a single currency; otherwise it will not be built at all.

LABOUR TOMORROW

Voters wonder what Tony Blair's new Britain would be like

The past 12 months have taken their toll on the Labour Party. This time last year, Tony Blair stunned his audience, inside and outside the conference hall, by announcing the demise of Clause Four. The ensuing debate and the eventual vote were good for both the party and for its image; but they have left today's delegates feeling somewhat bruised and disgruntled. That is why, despite Labour's continuing strong lead in the polls, this week will not be an easy one for Mr Blair. Signs of discontent surfaced over the summer while the leader was on holiday. They will crop up again, sporadically, over the course of this week.

As usual, the minimum wage will cause trouble, as will the candidature of Liz Davies, who was banned by the National Executive Committee last week from standing for Leeds North East. The tricky question of grant-maintained schools will arise again, together with the traditional motion on defence spending, which the leadership, equally traditionally, ignores.

Conference week is the time of year when dissension is aired; delegates are not (though they should be) elected by one-member-one-vote, and it tends to be the most vociferous activists who win their conference passes. Despite the large rise in Labour's membership since Mr Blair became leader, few of the new, modernising members are likely to have been able to squeeze themselves into constituency delegations in Brighton.

This makes the leader's task all the harder. He has three different audiences to address: the country, the party at large, and

the delegates in the hall. Only the last audience is in a position to embarrass him by voting or speaking against him. Even if this week displays nothing like the vitriol that Labour conferences routinely showed in the 1980s, it may still not be a pleasant occasion for Mr Blair.

Yet mollifying conference delegates is really the least of the leader's tasks. Having spent the past year creating "new" Labour, he now needs to paint a picture of the "new" Britain that voters might expect to see if they were to send him to Downing Street. This could possibly be the last Labour conference before the general election. Mr Blair needs to rise above arguments about the minimum wage or the exact status of grant-maintained schools. What voters want is some sense of what it would feel like to wake up in a Labour Britain. Would they be more or less confident, richer or poorer, excited or scared? Would their lives really change? If so, for the better or the worse? After all these years, voting Labour is a big leap into the dark. Mr Blair should shine a torch into the corners.

This would also help to improve his relations with his party. One reason for the disenchantment of some members is that, while they know what they are not supposed to believe in any more, they have little grasp of the new vision. So far, Labour philosophy has been a list of lacunae and unrelated policies. Like a jigsaw puzzle just emptied from the box, the colours are clear but few of the pieces have been fitted together. Some big pieces are still missing.

HAWKING'S HAMLET

The professor leads us forward into the past

Stephen Hawking's declaration that time travel is possible takes the enigma of time a stage further and darker into the unknown. Until now Professor Hawking has argued against the possibility of such a time machine. In his foreword to a book to be published next month he has now recanted: "One of the consequences of rapid interstellar travel would be that one could also travel back in time."

Rast forward into the future has been an issue of controversy since Einstein formulated his special theory of relativity. Returning after a year's jaunt into the future, such a Rip Van Winkle time traveller would find that decades had passed on Earth.

But theoretical physicists have more recently developed Einstein's relativity equations to suggest that loops in the four-dimensional structure of space-time, known as closed timelike curves (CTCs), could provide a route backward in time. On the wider shores of cosmic physics, a "wormhole" is a pair of black holes, connected by a tunnel through space and time. If the two mouths of the wormhole were placed next to each other in space, time-travellers might use it as a time tunnel to their own past — provided, that is, that they could avoid such painful paradoxes as bumping into themselves entering the wormhole at the same time as they were leaving it.

If the time-traveller changes the past, he changes the conditions that sent him back in time in the first place. The grandfather paradox has him going back two generations,

and killing his grandfather before that young ancestor procreates. The Hamlet paradox scribbles out of a vacuum. The time-traveller goes back to the Elizabethan age to interview Shakespeare, gets his dates wrong, and arrives before the apprentice playwright has written *Hamlet*. Shakespeare takes the opportunity to crib the time-traveller's text and passes it off as his own, so adding a new dimension to Baconian theory. If time travel is possible, there must be some principle in nature to prevent such paradoxes arising. One way out is the consistency principle, which says that all actions must be consistent with past history. And this has to over-ride the autonomy principle, which gives us freedom to do what we want, so long as it does not violate the laws of science. The principle of least action might prevent the time-traveller colliding with himself. And the "multiverse" theory posits an infinite number of parallel universes. The time-traveller may kill his prospective grandfather, but that is in another universe, and accordingly does not nip off his future-past in the bud at home.

Such Einsteinian evolutions may show that time travel is theoretically possible. The naive speculations of famous scientists about theology and philosophy show that they are as much children of the two cultures divide as their art equivalents on the other side. But the practicalities of space travel, with its infinite expenses and expenses, are going to remain theories of science fiction for our lifetime — whatever that may mean.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Treatment of mentally ill under community care

From Mr Ian G. Thomson, FRCPsych

Sir, On September 23 you reported the Health Secretary's stance on community care of schizophrenics by saying that public spending on mental health services had increased significantly as community care had grown.

If this is the truth, it is not the whole truth. In my view, the current Mental Health Act, which was a great advance for the majority of patients, often operates to the disadvantage of those with serious and protracted illness who were better catered for under the old Act. These unfortunate people need more professional control than they currently get.

In 1964, when I started as a psychiatrist, I believe that more NHS mental beds were occupied than general beds, and that the majority of their occupants were suffering from schizophrenia. Since then expenditure on schizophrenia has shrunk vastly.

Last year "I ran" (in quotes as it is not really clear who is in charge these days) an acute psychiatric admission ward. I found it difficult and stressful to be regularly discharging patients prematurely, most often those with schizophrenia, so as to make room for more acute cases. Most of my psychiatric colleagues are now in positions of responsibility without power. The question of accountability is not clear: the doctor, the nurse, the manager, or the NHS trust?

As I currently visit psychiatric patients for the Mental Health Act Commission I am struck by the contrast between the "organised" care in psychogeriatric and rehabilitation wards and the apparently more "disorganised" care in acute wards. I have concern for both the patients and staff: the excess throughput of acute cases is not conducive to good care and probably relates to increased relapse — and no doubt to some crime.

One way forward would be for Parliament to face the existence of those who are chronically both mentally ill and antisocial. Both they and the public need protection.

In the early 1970s Denmark had a solution (later abandoned) whereby certain categories of patient who, on

committing even a minor offence and after due assessment of their needs, could be certified and consigned to "parole" for life or until the court discharged them. The parole officer could then dictate whether they stayed in hospital, hostel or elsewhere.

Such a system of organised care is surely better for the patient and the public than the haphazard system here in Britain, highlighted by the reports on Christopher Clunis (the schizophrenic who killed Jonathan Zito in 1992) and Jason Mitchell (killer of his own father and of an elderly couple in 1994) and on others. I am sure, you are yet to hit the headlines. Yours sincerely,

I. G. THOMSON,
Warleigh Fields Farm,
Warleigh, Bath, Avon,
September 24.

From Dr J. Harding Price

Sir, The constant insistence by the Department of Health that community care is right, accepted and agreed by all, is untrue. Most experienced psychiatrists know that such care is not correct for all patients of all mental illnesses, and those of us who were in the forefront of advocating a community life for people whenever possible also pointed out its difficulties, dangers and limitations.

Many people become ill in the community and are made ill by the way the community is organised. The aggressive psychopath in the battlefield is an asset, in the town a danger. For many patients the return from the mental hospital to the community creates a nightmare, with terrible consequences. The murders are but a small part of that nightmare — drugs, alcohol, arson and prison are the common sequelae.

At the St Johns and the Lawn hospitals in Lincoln, between 1960 and 1974, we reduced the number of psychiatric beds in Lincolnshire from 2,400 to 840. However, the pressure to escape from the alleged "paradise of the community" into Mr Dorrell's "sinister, forbidding Victorian asylums" was such that, despite a completely open hospital policy, we never were sure of enough beds to cope.

Mr Dorrell's recent statements reveal that he understands neither the balance of the human mind nor the mental health behaviour in the community. Most of the few bad asylums remaining from the 1930s and 1940s were eclipsed by the establishment of therapeutic communities in the 1950s, enabling patients not just to gain sanctuary but also to find a new way of life and to establish themselves in a useful role.

Yours faithfully,
J. HARDING PRICE
(Consultant psychiatrist),
Hafod, Cliff Garden,
Sewell Road, Lincoln,
September 29.

From Mr Clifford P. Robinson

Sir, The public have been led to believe that the alternative to incarceration in institutions is care in the community. It is this unhealthy perception which lies behind the Mental Health Act: new methods of treatment, local secure units and clinically-staffed care homes in the community for the long-term seriously mentally ill are safety nets that have gone by the board, sacrificed to cost-cutting and, often, the negligence of policymakers. As the brother of a hospital occupational therapist stabbed to death two years ago by a deranged patient who was under community care, I believe that families of such victims are owed both a public apology and the identification of the individual responsible for the "community care" in question.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD ROBINSON,
18 Cambridge Cottages,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey,
October 1.

From Mrs Lorna Blyth Harvey

Sir, Instead of comfortable accommodation for those musically well enough to attend the opera, may I suggest that some of the National Lottery funds go towards security and community care for those who are mentally ill.

Yours faithfully,
L. B. HARVEY,
38 Colehill Lane, Fulham, SW6.

Facts on fat

From Mr Craig Sams

Sir, The Department of Health has decided not to publish Professor Philip James's report that obesity is a serious threat to the future health of men and women in Britain, because "ministers want to shed their mauling image" (report September 29). This means that, once again, the department has suppressed a step towards the encouragement of better nutrition.

Prevention is the best cure — and diet has, since the time of Hippocrates ("Let thy food be thy medicine"), been seen as the key to maintaining good health. Billions are spent annually on the NHS to deal with the harm that Britons inflict on themselves through over-consumption of fatty, sugary foods. Diabetes, cancer and heart disease stubbornly maintain high levels of incidence.

It would not be "nannying" for the Government at least to permit the public access to the results of nutritional research. Nobody has proposed "food" Leninist gulags or compulsory feeding programmes; but in a democratic society we should be allowed to know that the drugs and surgery of the National Health Service are not the only way to maintain good health.

Yours sincerely,
CRAIG SAMs (Chairman),
Whole Earth Foods Ltd,
269 Portobello Road, W11,
September 29.

Short rations

From Mrs M. E. C. Freer

Sir, Hurray for Mr Malcolm Botham, who objects to bureaucracy's failure to recognise more than two initials (letter, September 23). I have signed myself by my Christian name, Claire, all my life, but bureaucracy resolutely continues to address me as M. E. Freer. I have had credit cards queried, had difficulty in paying in cheques, and only after a struggle of many years have I persuaded the Health Service that I am not Mary Freer.

I have been asked why I chose to use my last name. Does one choose at one day old? My parents followed the custom of the age and gave me, in addition to the name they chose, those of my two grandmothers, Mary and Edith; but they thought it more euphonious to arrange them as they did.

Yours faithfully,
CLAIRE FREER,
6 The Priory, Priory Road,
Abbotskerswell, Devon.

From Mr Philip C. A. Pedley

Sir, I strongly support Mr Botham's plea: much as I admire many policemen, I do not wish to be addressed as P. C. Pedley. When I complain, the usual excuse is that "the computer does not permit the use of more than two initials". This confirms my long-held view that these machines are stupid and that some of those who program them must have had too narrow an education.

Yours faithfully,
P. C. A. PEDLEY,
Old Manor Farm, Main Street,
Farnfield, Nottinghamshire.

Fall in property values

From Ms Hilary Patrick

Sir, We were concerned to read that an NHS trust in Surrey setting up a sheltered accommodation project for people leaving psychiatric hospital may be forced to compensate neighbouring home-owners for the alleged drop in the value of their houses (report, September 21).

We know of no evidence that sheltered accommodation projects cause prices to fall, despite the almost universal belief that this is the case. This has been established in fairly extensive research from the United States and Canada, and a recent research project in Glasgow bore out the US studies. The researchers looked at property prices in one area where mental health accommodation projects had been introduced and another very similar area with no such projects. Prices in both areas rose similarly.

The evidence is, therefore, that

University pay

From the Chairman of the Association of University and College Lecturers

Sir, The questioning by Professor Keith Smith (letter, September 25) of the effectiveness of the CVCP Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals as the "voice" for universities coincided with the reluctant acceptance of a pay increase of 2.7 per cent by lecturers in the English and Welsh new universities and colleges.

The perception of these staff must be that this voice speaks with forked tongue. Whilst the CVCP pleads to Government the case for increased funding of universities, its negotiating arm, the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association, has enforced a pay deal on lecturers that is 0.9 per cent less than inflation, and gives a starting salary of £13,000 — less than that of a good honours school teacher.

Tory candidates

From Mrs Caroline Strafford

Sir, Since, according to recent research from Sheffield University, the average age of a Conservative Party member in 1992 was 62, it is hardly surprising that candidates currently being selected are middle-aged, married males (reports, September 29).

Many of the activists choosing candidates are of a generation that believes that a woman's place is in the home with her family and so select accordingly. I must confess that if I were asked to take part in selecting a candidate — even though I am well below the average age of a Conservative member — I would wonder what husband would happily accept the absence of his wife when Parliament sits for such unsocial hours.

Until the Conservative Party is able to attract young people, which will not happen until the party becomes democratic, then it will continue, I believe, not to select women candidates.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE STRAFFORD,
Perams, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

community care projects will not involve NHS trusts in paying large amounts of compensation to disgruntled neighbours. The value of neighbouring properties will not fall.

Figures of hundreds of thousands of pounds compensation were quoted in your article. We do hope those involved are not using the community care project to explain a fall in house prices which was happening anyway.

The difficult issue of neighbours' opposition to community care projects will not go away. People setting up such projects may be interested in a report prepared for the Scottish Mental Health Forum which tackles some of the issues. *Community Care: Consultation with Neighbours* is available free from our information centre.

Yours sincerely,
HILARY PATRICK (Legal Adviser),
Scottish Association for Mental Health,
Atlantic House,
38 Gardner's Crescent, Edinburgh,
September 26.

Similarly, the UCEA has flatly refused to discuss improvements to research staff's pay and conditions, yet the CVCP is party to a draft concordat aiming to improve the position of contract research staff. Three sets of lecturers' salary scales and settlement dates operate across the UK, mainly to the detriment of staff in the new universities, and the employers seem content to maintain these divisions in higher education.

Collective bargaining has served all university academics ill over a 10-year period of increased productivity. An independent pay review is the only means by which fair salaries can be restored for the overall benefit of institutions, their staff and students.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL MACFARLANE,
National Chairman, Association of University and College Lecturers,
104 Albert Road,
Southsea, Hampshire.

Layers of union

From Dr James Francis

Sir, The conflict over the direction of the European Union could, I feel, be solved by turning it into the European Onion. By this I mean that there could be three, or possibly more, layers of membership.

The most basic would be the one which Britain originally joined — i.e. a trading relationship, the EEC. A more advanced membership might be to add in a common foreign and defence policy, a EU (which has yet to be developed). At the core could be monetary union. It would be up to member states to decide which layer they chose to join.

This solution would allow politicians to prevaricate until economic necessity drives them into the core.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES FRANCIS,
5 Alvercliffe Drive,
Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Globe and its exits and its entrances

From Mr A. I. Shapiro

Sir, It is reassuring to learn from the Chief Executive of the International Shakespeare Globe Centre (letter, September 23) that "all views are welcome" about the mock-up stage at the new Globe theatre, for nothing is known about any feature of the stages of either the first Globe, burnt down in 1612 (shortly before Shakespeare retired to Stratford), or of the second, built in 1613.

We might learn the plan of both fore-stages if English Heritage would permit further investigation of their original site. At present we do not know whether either of them was rectangular in plan, or like part of a hexagon, as were both stages at the Rose. The height of the stage floor above the level of the yard is unknown, and likely to remain so.

All plays of course require at least two stage entrances, and two existed at the first Globe, sometimes referred to as "doors", but where and what they looked like is anybody's guess. The belief, ascribed by Benedict Nightingale to "the academic majority" ("Argument rages round the Globe", Arts, September 13) that there were three entrance doors bunched centrally together and all in the same plane, facing forward to the audience, must rank as among the most implausible of such guesses.

My own guess is that two "doors" were merely gaps between the stage-back and the stage's side-walls, with the stage-back at each extended sufficiently beyond the gap to prevent spectators seeing behind stage. Such gaps would have permitted an "army" to enter waving banners and brandishing spears etc. marching or rushing across stage to the other gap, as called for in plots of many plays written before 1610. These entrances would no doubt have facilitated, for example, the procession of apparitions and kings that appears in Act IV of *Macbeth*.

I also believe that there was a central stage-entrance at the Globe, wide enough for kings and potentates to enter in state accompanied by guards or retinue. It is certain that there was a balcony over the stage, projecting forward probably by about two feet; the floor of the balcony is unlikely to have been much higher than seven feet above the stage floor, not skied as in the workshop mock-up shown in the photograph which accompanied Mr Nightingale's article.

In a theatre with a wide central stage entrance, gap-entrances at each side, and a balcony, all plays in the Globe repertoire would be easily performable.

Yours faithfully,
A. I. SHAPIRO,
The Shakespeare Institute,
University of Birmingham,
Birmingham B15 2TT,
October 1.

Inhumane weapons

From the Secretary General of the World Medical Association

Sir, Doctors around the world wish to add their voices to those demanding restrictions on the use in armed conflict both of anti-personnel landmines (letters, March 9 and September 21) and of laser systems intended permanently to blind opponents (letter, September 14).

The World Medical Association, which represents more than three million doctors in 64 countries, looks to the United Nations conference currently meeting in Vienna to amend the UN Convention on Inhumane Weapons, so that we can end the indiscriminate effects of landmines.

Members of this association are horrified at the death and injury being caused to civilians by landmines, often long after the cessation of the hostilities during which they were laid.

The laying of undetectable landmines and the irresponsible use of laser systems as blinding weapons now represents one of the biggest public health issues facing the world today.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FIELD,
Secretary General,
The World Medical Association,
218 Avenue des Alpes,
01210 Ferney-Voltaire, France,
September 26.

Harvest festival

From Mr Ron Johnston

Sir, There seems to be much less produce decorating churches for their annual harvest festivals this year. Has "set aside" been extended to ecclesiastical buildings?

Yours faithfully,
RON JOHNSTON,
123 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
September 26.

Measure for measure

From Mr Michael Bird

Sir, The answer to Mr Dennis Winterburn's question (letter, September 30) — are English worms to be replaced by centipedes and millipedes? — is of course not: the EC has abolished feet.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BIRD,
5 Glenham Gardens, Barnes, SW13,
October 1.

OBITUARIES

SIR FRED WARNER

Sir Fred Warner, GCVO, KCMG, Ambassador to Japan, 1972-75, and Conservative MEP, 1979-84, died on September 30 aged 77. He was born on May 2, 1918.

FRED WARNER achieved quiet distinction in three careers: diplomacy, culminating in three years as Ambassador to Japan in the early 1970s; five years of politics in the European Parliament in the early 1980s; and business, with substantial commitments to several major British companies and to the Confederation of British Industry. He brought to all three a lively intelligence and a warm and quizzical personality, and he found great satisfaction in a late marriage and young children.

Frederick Archibald Warner was the son of a West Indian-Briton and an American mother. He was educated at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, and at Magdalen College, Oxford. In 1939, at the age of 21, he was swept into the Royal Navy, in which he served throughout the war, and in 1946, at 28, he entered the Foreign Office. Moscow, Rangoon and Athens followed, as Warner climbed the traditional Foreign Service ladder.

While his progress from Third Secretary to Counsellor was punctuated by one event which still has some resonance, in 1957 Warner was employed in the private office of a Foreign Office Minister of State, Hector McNeill. There he was thrown together with another Private Secretary, Guy Burgess, whose treachery, and defection to Moscow with another diplomat, Donald Maclean, shattered the complacent calm of the postwar Foreign Service. In the months before his defection, Burgess' behaviour was wildly erratic; the Foreign Service told itself



collectively that it, or someone within it, should have taken action sooner; and hindsight — for it was nothing more profound than that — pointed at those close to Burgess, such as Fred Warner.

It was some time after this episode that Warner was transferred to Rangoon. There he discovered in himself a delight in the quiet manner and culture of Burma, and its neighbours, and he was pleased that his first appointment as a Counsellor,

in 1960, was as head of the South-East Asia Department of the Foreign Office. He stayed there for four years, growing in knowledge and authority about the area. It was natural that there should follow, after a year at the Imperial Defence College, now the Royal College of Defence Studies, appointment as Ambassador to Laos.

It was at this time a sensitive appointment, as Indo-China declined into chaos, and in a short posting Warner made his mark there. But he

was destined for higher things, and after short appointments in the British delegation to Nato and in the Foreign Office, he was appointed in 1969 Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Warner stayed in New York for three years, serving two very different chiefs: Sir Hugh Foot (Lord Caradon) and Sir Colin Crowe. Life in Manhattan and at the United Nations brought out in him the quizzical side of his nature and reinforced his searching interest in human beings. At the same time day-to-day UN business tested his intelligence and his diplomatic skills. He passed with flying colours and in 1972, still only 54, he was promoted and appointed Ambassador to Japan.

He had long seemed an incorrigible bachelor but in 1971 he surprised his friends with marriage. His bride, Mrs Simone Georgina de Ferranti, brought him a young stepdaughter and then presented him with two sons of his own. Before proceeding to Tokyo they went together to the University of Sheffield. There they achieved a working knowledge of Japanese: a not inconsiderable feat for either of them, but particularly noteworthy for a man whose schooldays were nearly forty years behind him.

Warner brought vigour, enjoyment and imagination to his mission in Tokyo at a time when the country was moving rapidly towards the salience it enjoys today. If he did not achieve complete success, it may have been because his unorthodoxy did not sit entirely well with the conventional formality of the Japanese or of their stiffer expectations of a British Ambassador. He had entertained hopes of rounding off his career as Ambassador in Paris or Washington (an echo of his half-American origins) but his friends

were not surprised when both these plums went elsewhere. He resigned from the Diplomatic Service in 1975 — there was an immediate effort to get him to freshen his mind with the offer of a fresh job — mainly because he rightly suspected that it would be easier to start a new career at the age of 57 rather than at 60.

The European Parliament in Strasbourg offered prospects for a man at home with politics, whose diplomatic career, though this was partly through his own choice, had brought him too little to Europe. In 1979, in the first European direct elections, Warner became the Conservative MEP for Somerset, bringing his knowledge of the world, and of the East in particular, to its counsels. The job meant constant travel, and frequent absence from his young family, and after five years he had had enough; but he made a solid contribution to the work of the Parliament in what were, for the British members at least, still its early years.

Retiring from politics in 1984, Warner turned to business. He served for three valuable years as chairman of the overseas committee of the Confederation of British Industry and held directorships in the fields of insurance, chemicals and banking. Between Tokyo and Strasbourg he had discovered the merits of the National Trust, whose interests he continued to promote as chairman of its Wessex division. Throughout a long, third retirement he remained an active, witty, convivial figure — as near to a Renaissance man as a fundamentally starchy institution such as the Foreign Office has managed to produce in recent years.

Warner was promoted KCMG in 1972, at the start of his appointment in Tokyo, and appointed GCVO at its conclusion.

He is survived by his wife, their two sons and a stepdaughter.

COLONEL ERIC HEFFORD

Colonel Eric Hefford, CVO, CBE, DSO, adviser on protocol, died on September 15 aged 81. He was born on October 14, 1913.



THERE was only one course of action for a former colony preparing to make its own way in the world: send for the "colonel". No independence celebrations seemed complete without this bristling former British officer and war veteran. He knew which flags should be flown and anthems played, the right order of precedence at formal banquets, the most appropriate gifts for departing guests and, above all, how to look after visiting "royals".

No officer retiring from the Army could have wished for a more fascinating second career. Eric Hefford once described himself as a midwife — "always on hand to help with the birth of a new nation". But he might equally have been compared to Jeeves, because he not only knew what was correct but was expert at fixing things when they went wrong.

When one colony was non-plussed on being sent, as its chief guest, the Duke of Gloucester — in place of the expected Prince of Wales — Hefford quietly put a call through to the Palace. With official approval he dubbed the Duke "Prince" in the official programme — and honour was saved.

In another country he was persuaded to pay a "fee" to encourage the official rainmaker to stop work for a day. When this singular form of insurance failed to work (and everyone was soaked) he was calmly assured that he had not paid enough money.

The first celebrations masterminded by Hefford were those in Nigeria 35 years ago, two years after he had retired from the Army. There followed Sierra Leone and Tanzania, Jamaica, Malita, Guyana, Barbados, Mauritius and various islands in the Pacific. At first his reputation grew by word of mouth as one ex-colony after another passed on his name to an expectant neighbour. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office then began to recommend him and even the former Dutch colony of Surinam hired him during the mid 1970s.

Hefford's *modus operandi* was to move in with his small team of secretaries in advance and devote six months to planning the great event. He would even broadcast to the local people advising them on what to expect on Independence Day.

Yet for all this recognition and success, he would probably have preferred to be remembered not so much for his second career as for his first as a regular soldier.

Eric Alfred Hefford was born in the village of Saxilby on the outskirts of Lincoln, the son of an engineer who specialised in insulation and refrigeration. Although Hefford's father was employed by the Kelvinator refrigerator company, he also made his name in the First World War by devising a means of keeping food hot for men in the trenches and later by working on the refrigeration of blood for wartime transfusions.

From childhood the young Hefford aspired to join the Army and on leaving Allyn's School, Dulwich, he hoped to go to the Royal Military College Sandhurst. He failed the medical, however, on the ground that he had a heart condition which would later turn out to be baseless.

Frustrated, he studied for the Army by correspondence course from home and was eventually accepted for a short service commission in the Lincolnshire Regiment's Supplementary Reserve. He quickly converted this into a

regular commission. After serving in Palestine before the war he was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force in 1939 and was wounded in his leg as the Lincolnshires took heavy casualties during the retreat to Dunkirk.

On recovering, Hefford was given a staff job in Britain and went to the Staff College at Camberley before being posted briefly to the Middle East. From there he moved to Italy where he took command of a battalion of the Sherwood Foresters. Leading his men against a vastly superior force of German armour, Hefford suffered the pain and indignity of being wounded for the second time in almost exactly the same part of his leg, this time more seriously, when he was hit by a machinegun bullet fired from a tank.

Again, however, he made a full recovery and was given command of the 2nd Battalion, The Wilshire Regiment, with whom he won his DSO at the crossing of the Garigliano River. But shortly after that, the battalion was moved to Palestine for retraining before taking part in the battle for North West Europe.

Hefford spent much of his time after the war on academic courses and staff work. After serving as an instructor at Staff College he attended the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer, Buckinghamshire, then was sent on the United States Army staff course at Leavenworth, followed by the US senior naval officers course at Norfolk, Virginia.

He served in Malta and once more in Palestine before being given command in 1955 of the 4th Malay Regiment, fighting communist guerrillas during the Malayan emergency. His last tour, however, was as chief of staff to the military adviser in Ghana. It was through this West African connection that he developed his second career as an adviser on protocol and was contracted to take on his first assignment in Nigeria.

As a soldier he was a complete professional. While maintaining the highest standards himself, however, he also expected the same from those under him and quickly acquired the reputation of being a strict disciplinarian. Indeed, he was so much so that he once alarmed his corps commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Montgomery (as he then was), Monty, not known as a softie, had him moved from his post as adjutant at one point because Hefford's search for efficiency was thought to be too zealous. Off-duty, however, he always relaxed: he was a fine horseman who took up polo while in West Africa and became not only an accomplished player but a respected umpire.

His American wife Pat, whom he met while stationed in the United States, died shortly before he retired from the Army and he is survived by their son.

SUSAN FLEETWOOD

Susan Fleetwood, actress, died of cancer on September 29 aged 51. She was born on September 21, 1944.

WITH her expressive, dark eyes, handsome, mobile face and impeccable vocal delivery, Susan Fleetwood was for more than twenty years a leading figure on the classical English stage. From an early age she displayed such immense maturity that from the outset it was difficult not to think of her in terms of a "much older generation" of actresses, the Thordikes and the Ashtrons. It is astonishing to reflect that her electrifying Regan for the Royal Shakespeare Company of the 1960s and 1970s were played when she was still in her twenties. And yet up to thirty years later she was able to replicate girlish self-doubt or ingenious bemusement where they were called for in some of her television roles.

Indeed, her dramatic gifts and physical attributes enabled her to translate effortlessly to the small screen. There, she was properly in her element in the heavier kind of drama, though her performance as Kate Phillips in the BBC detective series *Chandler & Co.* seen as recently as this year, was an immensely successful feature of the channel's more popular output. To her film roles, too, though they were not numerous, she always brought unforgettable quality.

To the public who did not know her, it would have come as a surprise to learn that this achievement was sustained in parallel with a battle against cancer which had lasted for 15 years. Among her later roles, her Arkadina in Chekhov's *The Seagull* for the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1991, was a triumph of innate accomplishment and sheer courage over the debilitating ravages of the disease.

Susan Maureen Fleetwood was born at St Andrews, the daughter of an RAF officer. Her brother Mick was to become drummer of the band Fleetwood Mac. Since her father chose to keep his children with him while he went on overseas postings, rather than

packing them off to boarding school, she had a peripatetic childhood. She spent several years in Egypt in the period before the Suez crisis and then went to Norway, where her father had a Nato job. There she had her first taste of drama with the role of Joseph in a school production of the famous Old Testament story. With a precocious brother and sister, both of whom were interested in the arts in one form or another, she grew up as an articulate child, although the severe formal side of her education left her with reading difficulties that went to haunt her for some years.

When her parents returned to England she chose to help them to renovate the Thames barge they lived in rather than to be sent to school. Broad-mindedly, they seem not to have objected. But the local education authority did, and she was tracked down and handed off to school. Since she was apparently incapable of passing her 11-plus, the choice had to be a convent school and it was to the influence of a nun there, who perceived what drama could do for this unconventional child, that Susan Fleetwood ever afterwards attributed her embarking on the right career path.

At 16 she won a scholarship to RADA from where, in 1964, she toured the United States, playing *Lady Macbeth* and *Roseland in As You Like It* in Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona. Terry Hands, a contemporary at RADA with whom she was later to live for nine years, played *Orlando*. When she returned from America she went to Liverpool with a group of actors, which had Hands at the centre of it.

There she became a founder-member of the Everyman Theatre, which had encouragement from Liverpool City Council. It was hard, ill-paid work, but the commitment was unrelentingly to serious drama, and this shaped her outlook on what the theatre should be.

This formative experience, which included teaching and performing in local schools, lasted three years. At the end of that period she was offered jobs at both the National and



Royal Shakespeare theatres.

She decided to follow Hands to Stratford, and, unlike many young actresses who have to spend an apprenticeship playing soldiers, townsfolk or murderers, soon made her mark. In 1968 her beautiful Regan in *King Lear* electrified audiences. Her Cassandra in John Barton's production of *Troilus and Cressida* was also an arresting one.

But, though she became well established at the RSC, she began to appreciate the drawbacks of working for the same company, and in 1970 went touring with the Cambridge Theatre Company. With them she did her first *Seagull* (as Nina), an experience that was to instil into her a love for Chekhov which never left her. She also toured with the Prospect Theatre, as *Lady Roderigo in The Way of the World* and as Ophelia.

But, as was bound to happen, the RSC could never be far from the centre of her career and she was back at Stratford by 1972, playing Portia opposite Eric Porter's Shylock, the Woman of Samaria in *Murder in the Cathedral* and a Bondswoman in *The Island of the Mighty* (the production of which so displeased its co-authors John Arden and his wife Margaret D'Arcy that they picketed the Aldwych Theatre and vowed never to write for the stage again).

By now Susan Fleetwood was unassailably established on the classical stage and it was only a question of which roles she would add to her repertoire as the years went on. A notable landmark was her Pegeen Mike in a production of *The Playboy of the Western World* at the Old Vic in 1975. This was the more

remarkable in that she was the only English member of an otherwise all-Irish cast.

During the 1980s she became increasingly involved with films, including *Heat and Dust* (1982), a version of Ruth Praver Jhabvala's novel of India, scripted by the writer herself, and *White Mischief* (1987), an account of the murder of Lord Erroll in Kenya's Happy Valley. But a film which meant a great deal to her was *The Sacrifice* directed in Sweden in 1985 by the Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky. The director, then in exile, was also by then suffering from cancer (he died shortly afterwards) and a close artistic rapport sprang up between him and his leading lady.

Meanwhile, a television career had burgeoned: besides the popular success of *Chandler & Co* there was a recent

version of Jane Austen's *Persuasion* and the enigmatic portrayal of the long-suffering Leonora Ashburnham in a fine account of Ford Madox Ford's novel *The Good Soldier* (1981).

But nothing could weaken her allegiance to the stage. As long as she was able, she continued to engage the major classic roles. A delightful Beatrice in the RSC's *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1990 was followed by a remarkable account of Chekhov's *Madame Arkadina* at the Barbican in the following year, which plucked all the depths of *The Seagull's* subtleties. Had illness not cut short her career, Susan Fleetwood clearly had much more to give as she entered maturity. Her death removes one of its most gracious personalities from the English stage.

She never married.

University news

King's College London

Recent research grants include: Electronic & Electrical Engineering, Dr T G Clarkson, £5,402 Ecu (European Commission) (George Philips) Structural Joint European Project 1994/95.

Professor A J Rogers, Dr V A Handrick, 361,487 Ecu (European Commission) for a project entitled: New optics for remote monitoring of structural integrity of elevated temperature insulated systems (R04M8).

Life Sciences Division, Professor A J Rogers, Mr P J Langlois, £55,736 (E04M) for investigation of fast signal processing for distributed optical fibre sensing systems.

General Practice & Primary Care, Dr J Dale, £57,409 (King Edward's Hospital Fund) for evaluation of the nurse-provided telephone advice service.

Haematinic Medicine, Dr M Layton, Professor J Bell, £30,000 (James Spenshaw Research & Welfare Trust for Child-

ren, with T.P.L.) for a fellowship entitled: Thione phosphate isomerase (TPI) deficiency.

Law, Professor I M Kennedy, £42,000 (City Solicitors Educational Trust) contribution towards salary of information technology co-ordinator, with responsibility for setting up research database in School of Law.

Professor D J Maynard, £82,500 (Baring Foundation) contribution towards salary of Director for British Institute of Human Rights, and Senior Research Fellow in School of Law.

(Inspectorate of Pollution) to support a project on exposure assessment approach to the derivation of environmental assessment levels: feasibility study.

Medical Engineering & Physics, Dr M Lord, Dr R Luff, Mr R Lewis, £141,702 (South and West Regional Health Authority) to support research on a shell shoe-fitting service for stock orthopaedic shoes.

Medical Unit, Dr P M W Bath, Dr S Williams (Neurology), Professor B S Meldrum (Neurology), £72,264 (MRC) for a project on the effect of nitric oxide donors on experimental stroke.

Professor B M Hendry, £57,424 (MRC) for a project on effects of renal failure on membrane chloride transport in neuronal and epithelial cells.

Professor J F Martin, Dr A J de Belder (Yellow), £23,778 (British Heart Foundation) for an investigation of research fellowship on the role of a novel platelet selective nitric oxide donor, S-nitrosoglutathione, in cardiovascular disease.

Dr J D Bransford, Dr J Zachary, £89,225 (British Heart Foundation) for a project on signal transduction mechanisms: role of kinase C & protein tyrosine phosphorylation.

Dr I Zachary, £97,120 (British Heart Foundation) for a project on regulation of p125 focal adhesion kinase in vascular smooth muscle cells.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE

The piece selected for the opening of the season was Home's pathetic tragedy of *Douglas*, a drama distinguished more by gentleness and delicacy of feeling, than vigour of action, or force and dignity of passion.

The character of young Norval was sustained by Mr. Kean, the son of the very eminent tragedian of that name. Various were the puffs published in praise of this young man, but when he last night offered himself to be weighed in the critical balance, he was found wanting.

He hears the name of his father, but he appears to inherit little of his genius. We have heard, and we give credit to the statement, that Kean the elder had provided for his son, by procuring for him an appointment in the East India Company's service. If it be not too late, we should advise the young gentleman to push his fortune in the East; and, if he needs must be theatrical, he may amuse himself on the Chourineering stage, and on many other stages in India, where amateur performances are greatly admired.

The debutant of last night seems to have emerged from his 18th year. He is rather taller than his father — whom, in his profile, he strongly resembles. His form slight, but well-

ON THIS DAY

October 2, 1827

This notice of the debut of Charles Kean (1811-68) did not deter him. He acquired some proficiency and became popular in the provinces. Between 1863 and 1866 he made a tour of the world with his wife, the actress Ellen Tree. He played *lago* to the *Othello* of his father Edmund on March 25, 1833, when the latter collapsed crying: "I am dying. Speak to them for me."

proportioned — his motion, that of an individual well accustomed to the stage — and his action generally correct. With respect to his voice, and his style of declamation, we can say nothing favourable. The former is weak, unmusical, and puerile; the latter better adapted to the conventional than to the stage. It is tedious, drawing, and monotonous — such as well-whipped boys occasionally, at Christmas, exhibit before their delighted parents.

But his friends appeared to know very little about him or the tragedy: in the early scenes they most vociferously applauded every male performer who appeared, mistaking him for Mr. Kean, jun.

In the opening scenes of the tragedy, *Young Norval* is a mere narrator, and we must say it is never heard the address — "My name is Norval," or the description, "Beneath a mountain's brow, I deliver to a more wild or inefficient manner. Had he been any other than the son of one who has so often, and so entirely gratified the public, by his fine genius, the young gentleman would, most assuredly, have been driven from the boards, with at least as much precipitancy as that with which the American manager has forced him on them. In the discovery scene, where *Norval* learns from his mother that he is descended from a high and noble house there were some points which deserved applause. On the score of imitation, but on no other.

The junior Kean's voice has been described as being precisely similar to that of his father. It is no such thing. It is a sickly imitation of it; and is utterly destitute of the fulness and richness of many of the tones with which Mr. Kean's voice is enriched — tones which will not easily be forgotten by those who have heard his *lago* in *Othello*...

NEWS

Kohl raises doubts over EMU target

British ministers and Conservative MPs welcomed a "new realism" spreading across Europe after Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, conceded that the European single currency could miss its target date of 1999 by two years.

Herr Kohl's remarks, reportedly made to close colleagues and disclosed in *Der Spiegel*, pleased John Major and will raise the hopes of Tory Euro-sceptics that the single currency will be long-delayed and, conceivably, may never happen. Pages 1, 14, 20, 21

Blair in new row with Left

Tensions between Tony Blair and the Labour Left rose sharply as the leader prepared for a showdown at the party conference in Brighton over the ditching of Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate. Pages 1, 8, 9, 20, 21

Britannia Mk II

The Government is expected to agree to a replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, to be partly funded by the Ministry of Defence as a sail training ship. Page 1

Cantona cheered

Scores of tricolours and French berets brought a flavour of Bastille Day to Old Trafford as footballer Eric Cantona was welcomed back to Manchester United. Pages 1, 25, 29

Actors separate

The diverging careers of Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson hurt their marriage long before their separation. Page 3

Rail rethink

The Government has been forced into a rethink of the rail privatisation timetable as fears grow that it may fail to sell a single passenger franchise. Page 2

Lobbying begins

Political lobbyists will be spending an estimated £750,000 in Brighton this week in the belief that the serious business of influencing the next Labour government starts now. Page 8

Risky toll

The Government's plans for electronic motorway tolls could provoke motorists into a campaign of civil disobedience on the scale of the poll tax rebellion, a report claimed. Page 4

Americans touch down in wrong city

For American tourists the maxim of "If it's Tuesday, it must be Belgium" took on new meaning when a flight from Detroit to Frankfurt landed in Brussels. The 251 passengers knew they were in the wrong city from watching the electronic map of the flight. "The only people who didn't know where they were, were the three guys up front," an inquiry official said. Page 1

Call to defy metric

Sir George Gardiner, chairman of the 92 Group of Thatcherite Tory MPs, urged national defiance by the British as metrication came into effect. Page 7

Student revolt

For the first time, half of Britain's undergraduates have opted for a local university and an estimated one in five will live with parents. Page 6

Law lord's claim

Lord Woolf, who complained that some young barristers earned more than his salary of £114,874, has been accused of making misleading statements. Page 10

Abacha's pledge

Nigerian military ruler General Sani Abacha, under international pressure, commuted sentences on alleged coup plotters and announced a return to democracy in three years. Page 11

FBI called in

The FBI is to investigate the death of a Palestinian American who died while being interrogated by one of Yasser Arafat's secret police forces. Page 12

Rao accuses US

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said the decision of the US Senate to allow the sale of weapons to Pakistan could trigger the first arms race in South Asia since the end of the Cold War. Page 15



Alan Giles, managing director of Waterstones, pops the champagne to celebrate cheaper book prices with the end of the century-old price fixing agreement. Don Woolford, the first customer yesterday at the Notting Hill Gate branch, received a set of books.

BUSINESS

Power deal: National Power is about to announce an agreed £2.8 billion takeover of Southern Electric and a hefty sale of power stations to satisfy its regulator's desire for more competition in power generating. The deals are comparable to moves made by rival PowerGen, but bigger. Page 48

Training scheme: The Labour Party has revised its training plans so as to avoid any general levy on employers. Page 48

Auditing firm acts: KPMG, Britain's biggest auditing partnership, is expected to set up a limited company for its big company audit business in the light of the growing tide of lawsuits against auditors across the world. Page 48

TECHNICAL

City wars: Computer war games developed in the Cold War are being adapted by businesses in the City to identify security weaknesses. Page 18

Secrets of life: As scientists learn more about the structure of proteins they are discovering how to design drugs for treating life-threatening diseases. Page 18

Cultural revolutions: Francis Fukuyama, whose *The End of History* started a philosophical debate five years ago, is having second thoughts. Page 19

EDUCATION

Independent education: The Headmasters' Conference has a few unexpected items haunting the agenda. Page 41



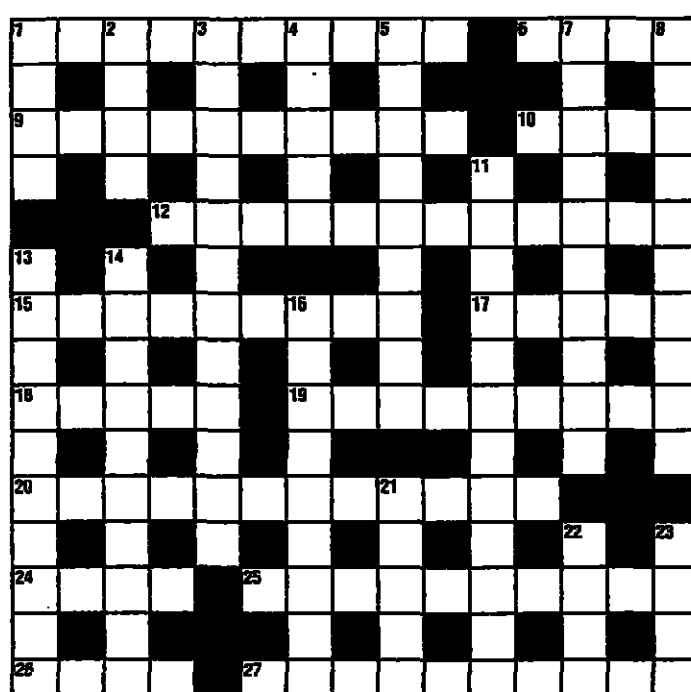
IN THE TIMES

FIRST WINNER
The Times Interactive Team Football announces the winner of its first manager of the month prize

PLUS...
Libby Purves, writer, broadcaster and Times Tuesday columnist



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,975



ACROSS

- 1 Loud shrieking disturbed a bird (10).
- 6 A spinner at his peak? (4).
- 9 An armed timing device (5-5).
- 10 Supporter of proposal (4).
- 12 Be earnest about usury (4,8).
- 15 Van driver's warning expression (9).
- 17 Game in which Harry leads mother (5).
- 18 Examining some money in great detail (5).
- 19 Feverish activity in temples? (9).
- 20 Trouble's building up, admits copper, and is leading to disorder (12).
- 24 Erotic reply to proposal returned, a case for a kiss (4).

DOWN

- 2 Sent crazy by other claims on your attention? (10).
- 26 The way to travel to gain time (4).
- 27 Maybe it's the case study of good taste (10).
- 1 Bird that may be all black? (4).
- 2 An elevating Kipling poem of unaffected simplicity (4).
- 3 Pop star, for example, has authority (6-6).
- 4 Health resort in the country (5).
- 5 Points to oppose in the meeting (9).
- 7 Offer sprawling lion some meat (10).
- 8 They impressed old sailors (5,5).
- 11 Fighting men who showed courage when put on a charge (5,7).
- 13 A lingering sensation following a smack! (10).
- 14 For clever people, cunning cartoons miss nothing (10).
- 16 Twist or bust, I've to be forward-looking (9).
- 21 One of those pieces of eight (5).
- 22 A case of pins and needles (4).
- 23 Does wrong, gets lines (4).

KNOCKKANDO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,974 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockkando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
South East	704
West Midlands	705
East Midlands	706
North East	707
North West	708
Yorkshire & the Humber	709
West of Scotland	710
East of Scotland	711
Wales	712
Wales & the West	713
Wales & the South	714
Wales & the North	715
Wales & the East	716
Wales & the West	717
Wales & the South	718
Wales & the North	719
Wales & the East	720
Wales & the West	721
Wales & the South	722
Wales & the North	723
Wales & the East	724
Wales & the West	725
Wales & the South	726
Wales & the North	727
Wales & the East	728
Wales & the West	729
Wales & the South	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE	731
East of London	732
West of London	733
South East	734
West Midlands	735
East Midlands	736
North East	737
North West	738
Yorkshire & the Humber	739
West of Scotland	740
East of Scotland	741
Wales	742
Wales & the West	743
Wales & the South	744
Wales & the North	745
Wales & the East	746
Wales & the West	747
Wales & the South	748
Wales & the North	749
Wales & the East	750
Wales & the West	751
Wales & the South	752
Wales & the North	753
Wales & the East	754
Wales & the West	755
Wales & the South	756
Wales & the North	757
Wales & the East	758
Wales & the West	759
Wales & the South	760

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Mancun, Kent, 21C (70F); lowest day temp: Llanelli, 11C (52F); highest night temp: Llanelli, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Llanelli, 5C (41F).

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AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b-bright; c-cloud; d-drizzle; e-dust; f-fog; g-gale; h-hail; i-ice; j-jet; k-kiss; l-lake; m-mist; n-nor; o-oil; p-poll; q-quake; r-rain; s-snow; t-tide; u-umb; v-vibe; w-wind; x-x-ray; y-yield; z-zigzag.

Region	Forecast
London & SE	761
East of London	762
West of London	763
South East	764
West Midlands	765
East Midlands	766
North East	767
North West	768
Yorkshire & the Humber	769
West of Scotland	770
East of Scotland	771
Wales	772
Wales & the West	773
Wales & the South	774
Wales & the North	775
Wales & the East	776
Wales & the West	777
Wales & the South	778
Wales & the North	779
Wales & the East	780
Wales & the West	781
Wales & the South	782
Wales & the North	783
Wales & the East	784
Wales & the West	785
Wales & the South	786
Wales & the North	787
Wales & the East	788
Wales & the West	789
Wales & the South	790

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b-bright; c-cloud; d-drizzle; e-dust; f-fog; g-gale; h-hail; i-ice; j-jet; k-kiss; l-lake; m-mist; n-nor; o-oil; p-poll; q-quake; r-rain; s-snow; t-tide; u-umb; v-vibe; w-wind; x-x-ray; y-yield; z-zigzag.

Region	Forecast
London & SE	791
East of London	792
West of London	793
South East	794
West Midlands	795
East Midlands	796
North East	797
North West	798
Yorkshire & the Humber	799
West of Scotland	800
East of Scotland	801
Wales	802
Wales & the West	803
Wales & the South	804
Wales & the North	805
Wales & the East	806
Wales & the West	807
Wales & the South	808
Wales & the North	809
Wales & the East	810
Wales & the West	811
Wales & the South	812
Wales & the North	813
Wales & the East	814
Wales & the West	815
Wales & the South	816
Wales & the North	817
Wales & the East	818
Wales & the West	819
Wales & the South	820

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b-bright; c-cloud; d-drizzle; e-dust; f-fog; g-gale; h-hail; i-ice; j-jet; k-kiss; l-lake; m-mist; n-nor; o-oil; p-poll; q-quake; r-rain; s-snow; t-tide; u-umb; v-vibe; w-wind; x-x-ray; y-yield; z-zigzag.

Region	Forecast
London & SE	821
East of London	822
West of London	823
South East	824
West Midlands	825
East Midlands	826
North East	827
North West	828
Yorkshire & the Humber	829
West of Scotland	830
East of Scotland	831
Wales	832
Wales & the West	833
Wales & the South	834
Wales & the North	835
Wales & the East	836
Wales & the West	837
Wales & the South	838
Wales & the North	839
Wales & the East	840
Wales & the West	841
Wales & the South	842
Wales & the North	843
Wales & the East	844
Wales & the West	845
Wales & the South	846
Wales & the North	847
Wales & the East	848
Wales & the West	849
Wales & the South	850

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b-bright; c-cloud; d-drizzle; e-dust; f-fog; g-gale; h-hail; i-ice; j-jet; k-kiss; l-lake; m-mist; n-nor; o-oil; p-poll; q-quake; r-rain; s-snow; t-tide; u-umb; v-vibe; w-wind; x-x-ray; y-yield; z-zigzag.

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Region	Forecast
London & SE	851
East of London	852
West of London	853
South East	854
West Midlands	855
East Midlands	856
North East	857
North West	858
Yorkshire & the Humber	859
West of Scotland	860
East of Scotland	861
Wales	862
Wales & the West	863
Wales & the South	864
Wales & the North	865
Wales & the East	866
Wales & the West	867
Wales & the South	868
Wales & the North	869
Wales & the East	870
Wales & the West	871
Wales & the South	872
Wales & the North	873
Wales & the East	874
Wales & the West	875
Wales & the South	876
Wales & the North	877
Wales & the East	878
Wales & the West	879
Wales & the South	880

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b-bright; c-cloud; d-drizzle; e-dust; f-fog; g-gale; h-hail; i-ice; j-jet; k-kiss; l-lake; m-mist; n-nor; o-oil; p-poll; q-quake; r-rain; s-snow; t-tide; u-umb; v-vibe; w-wind; x-x-ray; y-yield; z-zigzag.

	Sun	Ran	C	Max
Lidabergin	5.3	0.08	20	66
Liverpool	7.6	0.10	16	69
London	7.6	0.08	20	68
Lowestoft	8.0	0.12	19	66
Manchester	8.0	0.09	17	63
Marlow	7.6	0.08	20	66
MidHesd	8.4	X	18	84
Mombombie	X	X	X	X
Newbury	6.6	0.07	17	63
Newcastle	6.7	0.10	19	66
Nottingham	X	X	X	X
Oxford	7.9	0.05	19	66
Perth	7.6	0.08	20	66
Plymouth	X	X	X	X
Portsmouth	7.5	0.01	21	70
Reading	X	X	16	66
Rose-cove	7.6	0.04	18	64
Rye	8.7	0.08	19	66
Salford	7.6	0.08	20	66
Scarborough	7.4	0.13	19	66
Seaford	7.6	0.08	20	66
Seaford East	7.6	0.08	20	66
Sharnbrook	6.4	0.09	17	63
Sharnbrook	7.6	0.08	20	66
Sharnbrook	7.1	0.06	16	61
Slough	X	X	X	X
Slough	5.5	0.09	20	66
Southampton	7.6	0.13	19	66
Southend	6.6	0.03	19	66

GOLF



26

Langer finds his form in Dublin play-off

MOTOR RACING



27

Home run carries champion to final straight

RACING



33

Dettori rides to historic success in Paris

BOXING

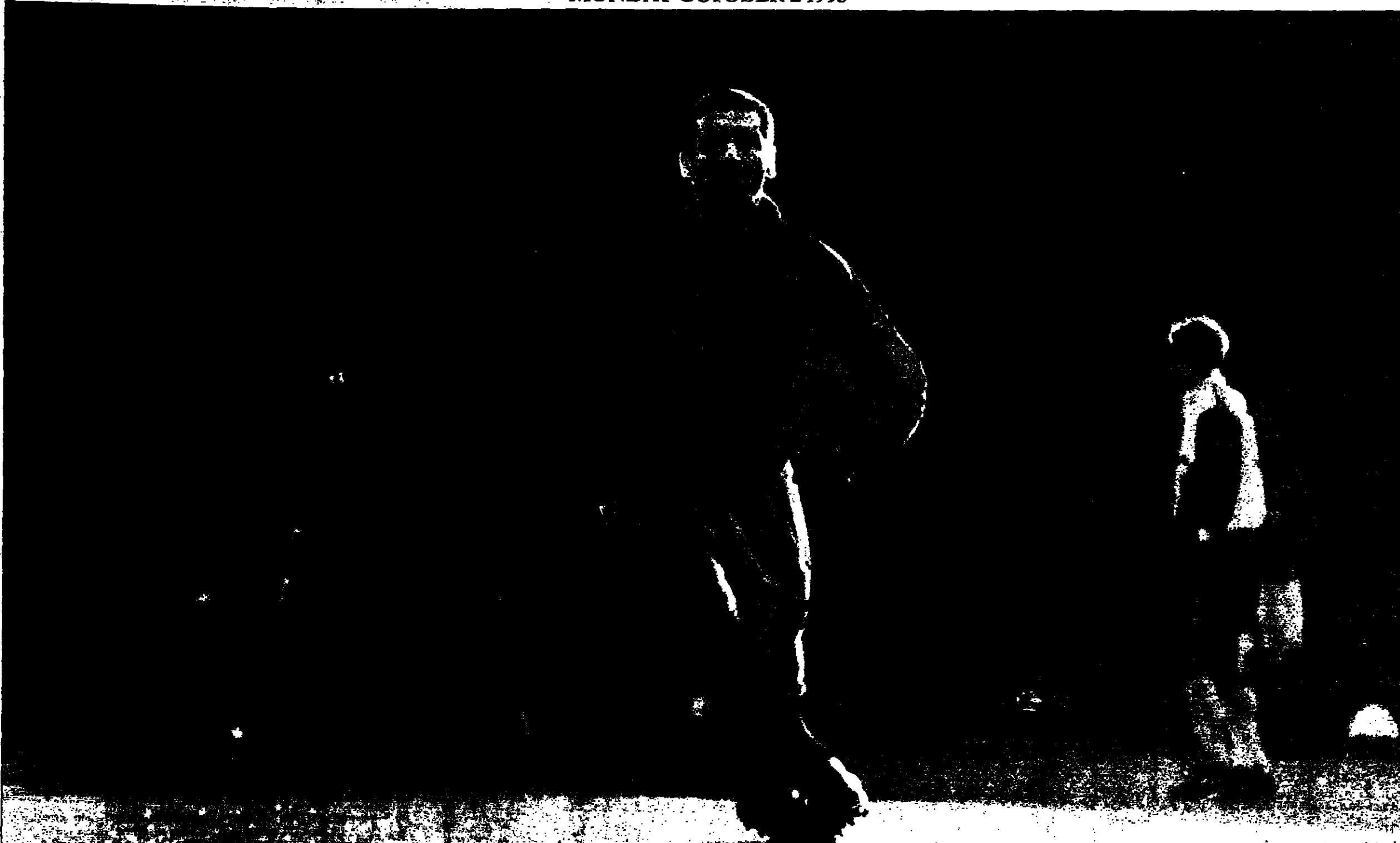


37

Prince of the ring ascends to world throne

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY OCTOBER 2 1995



A jubilant Cantona rushes towards the crowd to celebrate his second-half equaliser from the penalty spot that crowned his return to Manchester United's colours at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

United's prodigal son denies Liverpool on his return

Cantona basks in spotlight

Manchester United 2
Liverpool 2

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

THE *Tricolours* flew in their thousands, Eric Cantona returned to make and then score a goal... and yet Old Trafford ultimately had to concede that football remains a team game and that when opposition, more polished in their passing, control the rhythm and flow, a 2-2 final score represents an escape more than a justification for such high and seething sentiment.

Yes, Eric came out of purdah — but Robbie Fowler, both precocious and predatory, scored the two most handsome goals yesterday afternoon. "You wait on nature's mischief," Shakespeare wrote in *Macbeth*, but mischief breaks in all corners of a football contest and not necessarily where all the hype and expectation had been placed.

"Welcome to Old Trafford," the electronic scoreboard read as Cantona strutted out with his team of extras. As the players lined up on the centre circle, they held a banner of their own. Part of the campaign to kick racism out of sport, its slogan read: "Respect all fans."

The supporters and the players had they been together in the first place, it might never have come to this. Cantona might never have kicked so high and we would have been drawn to this northern version of footballing war simply by the fact that, over 126 league meetings, Liverpool stand on 44 wins against United's 43. The clubs are that close and the watching Newcastle United players, four points ahead in the FA Carling Premiership, were delighted by the draw.

Delight it erupted around the stadium after exactly 67 seconds.

That was the first touch from Cantona. He burst down the left, the vision and awareness alert, and, when he crossed, missing out Cole, there beyond the far post was young Butt. He appeared surprised, almost startled, to find himself sneaking in behind Babo, yet, with considerable skill, juggled with the ball, flicked it up and lifted it over the goalkeeper, James. It was not an extraordinary effect and Cantona accepted the congratulations as if this were footballing justice.

Yet there was no justice for Liverpool. If they were looking for an even break from penalty decisions. As they, playing in bottle green, began to take over the midfield with the fluency of their passing, it looked very much a penalty when Fowler proved too quick for Bruce. As the ageing United captain gripped at his shirt, down went the impenitent

Fowler. No penalty, asserted the referee, David Elleray, positioned five yards away.

Instead of a fury, the Liverpool players tried to impose calm. They were without John Barnes, missing for "domestic reasons", and they left out Stan Collymore, at £2.5 million the centre forward coveted by United

Gullit the master 28
Goals to Newcastle 29
Results, tables 30
The "other" Eric 31

before he instead joined Liverpool. Just after the half-hour, Fowler demonstrated why he, for the moment, has precedence. United had threatened in a breakaway, but then Liverpool promptly swept downfield, from James to McManaman and then to Fowler. Advancing down the

left, far too quick for Gary Neville, he spotted Schmeichel coming off the goal line. In less time than it takes to call his name, Fowler then shot with his left foot. The angle, the power and the surprise comprehensively beat Schmeichel at his near post.

The equaliser emphasised the imbalance in United's team. Though Butt had shown enterprise in getting forward for his goal, he had no idea of how to play on the right of midfield and he left the defence exposed. Recognising this, conceding Liverpool's technical superiority, the United manager, Alex Ferguson, rearranged the entire team at half-time. He brought on Beckham for Butt, Philip Neville went to the right of midfield and he used a 3-5-2 formation, with Gary Neville the third centre back and Cantona pushed forward from his lurking midfield role to a more adventurous second striking position.

Liverpool serenely ignored it. Fowler, in particular, would not let the new defence settle and, in the 52nd minute, running on to a superb through ball from Thomas, he shouldered Gary Neville off the ball and chipped the ball wide of the advancing Schmeichel. After scoring four goals against Bolton Wanderers a week ago, Fowler now has 57 goals in 102 Liverpool games, a pedigree that may yet mature for England at senior level.

But whose day was this, anyway? Cantona began to show more than the occasional, measured, sweet pass. Just after the hour, exchanging the ball twice with Beckham, he turned and shot across the face of goal. Then, with an even sharper turn, he struck a volley into the ample backside of Ruddock. Then, attempting to be provident, he chipped over a ball that Cole bicycle-kicked narrowly wide.

If it is the sense of injustice that really fires up Cantona, he does not mind when the pendulum swings his way — as it did in the 69th minute, when Elleray, from almost the same part of the penalty area that he denied a penalty to Liverpool, now awarded one to the home team. Cantona inevitably had stroked the ball through. Giggs tried to outpace Redknapp, there was contact, but the award looked harsh, even harsher the yellow card for Redknapp.

Never mind. What else had 34,934 people congregated together for than for their maestro to step coolly forward, swipe the ball arrogantly into the net from the penalty spot and run in joyful ecstasy towards the spectators? "Ooh aah, Eric Cantona," they are probably still singing it.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-2-1) P Schmeichel — G Neville, S Bruce, G Parkinson, F Neville (capt), P Scholes, 72 mins — N Butt (sub D Beckham, 42), R Keane, L Struss, E Cantona, R Gigg — A Cole.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-3) D James — J Skiles, N Ruddock, P Babo — J McManaman, M Thomas, J Redknapp, S Hales — S McManaman, R Fowler, I Rush.

Referee: D Elleray.



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Compulsory viewing for soft southerners

CONFUSED about rugby league? Uncertain whether the Super League is for you? Unaware that a World Cup gets under way this Saturday at Wembley?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, then I recommend you spend 50 minutes in the company of Michael Parkinson on BBC2 on Thursday as he presents *100 Years of Rugby League*. For soft southerners like myself, it should be compulsory viewing.

Parkinson's documentary began life as a simple and slightly sentimental celebration of the centenary of the meeting at the George Hotel, Huddersfield, at which 22 northern rugby union clubs took the momentous decision to financially compensate their players for taking half a day off work.

At this point its content

looked predictable — lots of brass band music, some grainy black and white reminders of old favourites playing in front of 100,000 crowds and the compulsory appearance by Colin Welland, whose hope that the south of England would one day embrace his beloved game has so far proved as wide of the mark as his prediction that the British would take over Hollywood.

But during the making of the documentary, two crucial things happened. First, Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation did a multimillion-pound deal with the Rugby Football League to turn the British game into a summer sport and form the Super League. Second, the Rugby Football Union decided that its players could become full-time professionals.

Helped by contributions



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

from Geoffrey Moorhouse, league historian; Maurice Lindsay, the league's chief executive, and former players of the amateur and professional games such as Cliff Morgan and Alex Murphy. Parkinson shows just how close the two codes, bitter enemies for a century, have now become. But the well-balanced programme also shows what a gulf still remains. I do not wish to steal too much of its thought-provoking thunder (watch out for an extraordinary attack on the late Eddie

Waring), but let me leave you with one thought. Can you imagine the Princess of Wales being linked with Shaun Edwards?

Coverage of the game in its present form is shared between Sky Sports and BBC. Sky shows two matches a week (one live, one delayed) from the Stones Bitter Championship, while the BBC has the Halifax World Cup, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and the Regal Trophy. Sky's last live match ahead of a four-week break for the

World Cup was on Friday and unfortunately Halifax versus Castleford was just the sort of game that could take the Super out of Super League and Eddie Hemmings and Mike Stephenson did not pretend otherwise.

Rarely have I heard commentators put a referee under the cosh as these two did. In the mid-week magazine programme that they host, *Boots 'n' All*, it is the articulate Stephenson, a member of the last British team to win the World Cup back in 1972, who does most of the straight-talking. But for the live game, the two men (whose commentary double act is reminiscent of American football commentators) took turns to make their displeasure clear with an official who awarded 11 penalties in the first 26 minutes. It was a refreshing approach

that was clearly designed to curry favour with their television audience.

There should be no such problems for Ray French and his colleagues in the BBC commentary box on Saturday, as the Halifax World Cup finally gives viewers of *Grandstand* some decent live sport to watch. Apart from the opening match between England and Australia, which many expect to be a rehearsal for the final, the BBC plans to show both semi-finals and the final live, together with highlights of England's other games against Fiji and South Africa. Wales' qualifying games will be shown on SAT while BBC North will show special highlights of the three other qualifying games taking place in the game's northern heartland. Sounds like us soft southerners are missing out.

Four new faces join New Zealand squad

THE New Zealand rugby union selectors have named four new caps and left out seven of their World Cup squad in a 26-man squad to tour Italy and France. New players Justin Marshall and Ofisa Tom'u are included at scrum half, while Taitoe Randall and Todd Blackadder are named in the forwards. The selectors, Laurie Maitland, Eddie Kirtson and Ross Cooper, retain 19 of the 26-strong squad that competed in the World Cup in South Africa.

The seven missing are backs Marc Ellis and Ant Strachan, scrum-half Graeme Bachop and forwards Paul Henderson, Kevin Schuler, Mike Brewer and Jamie Joseph. Brewer has retired from international rugby while Schuler and Bachop are in Japan. Strachan and Joseph are on their way there while Ellis has not signed a contract with the New Zealand Rugby Football Union and is tipped to join the Auckland Warriors rugby league team. The veteran Henderson was overlooked by selectors. There were recalls for North Harbour loose forward Liam Barry, after two years in the wilderness, and Auckland's experienced Michael Jones, who missed the World Cup because he refuses to play in Sunday matches for religious reasons.

Radcliffe edged out

ATHLETICS: Shaded Delahunty, of Ireland, won the women's mile at the Fifth Avenue Mile road race in New York ahead of Paula Radcliffe, of Britain. Delahunty tucked herself in behind Radcliffe at the halfway point and traded places for the last 200 metres before sprinting to the tape in 4min 25.2sec, with Radcliffe second in 4min 25.8sec.

In the men's race, British runners occupied three of the top ten places behind Isaac Vicsos, of Spain who clocked 3min 47.8sec — just outside the record of 3min 47.59sec set by the American, Sydney Marce, in 1981. Anthony Whitman finished fourth in 3min 53.5sec ahead of sixth-placed John Maycock (3:54.4) and Gary Lough (3:55.1), who was eighth.

Huber walks to title

TENNIS: Anke Huber, right, of Germany, won the Leipzig women's singles title without going on court or hitting a shot yesterday. Her opponent in the final, Magdalena Maleeva, of Bulgaria, was forced to withdraw from the tournament because of a stomach virus. Huber collected £52,650 and claimed her first title of the year just by showing up. "I feel especially bad for the spectators," she said.



Borders ready to enlist

RUGBY LEAGUE: A new rugby league team could be operating in the south of Scotland next year. A Borders consortium has already met the Rugby Football League to finalise their application to play in the second division next March for the first season of summer rugby.

"We are keen to encourage league in the Borders and there is scope for other clubs to join us," said a league spokesman, Neil Tunnicliffe. The team, the Borders Reivers, would play at Gala Fairydean's ground at Netherdale.

BFL advance in cup

TABLE TENNIS: A 24-hour journey from the front by two Bosnian soldiers failed to prevent the British League champions, BFL Grove, from reaching the second round of the European Cup yesterday. The Market Drayton club beat Tuzla 4-0 in a match moved to Zagreb, a switch which required Alic Anes and Damar Fazlic to travel by car, sometimes driving without lights, to the Croatian capital. The English club, including internationals Alan Cooke and Chris Oldfield, won all the matches in straight games.

Basingstoke begin well

ICE HOCKEY: Basingstoke Bison started their premier division campaign with the biggest surprise of the season so far, a 6-1 win over the unbeaten Durham Wasps. Without a game for the past fortnight, the Wasps were rusty, but did not help their cause by having two players ejected. There was also a surprise at Milton Keynes, where the Kings came back from 6-1 down to convert their scoring potential with a 17-8 win over Fife Flyers while Nottingham Panthers gained their expected win over Slough Jets by 11-6.

Sussex go for Haynes

CRICKET: Desmond Haynes, right, the former West Indies and Middlesex opening batsman, has been approached to become the new coach of Sussex, in succession to Norman Gifford, who resigned in July after some disappointing results. Haynes, who is in dispute with the West Indies Board of Control, over his failure to win selection for the series against Australia, feels his playing career is at an end.



Vials and Giles triumph

YACHTING: Westerly 45-knot winds blasting across Poole Harbour yesterday provided a testing finale to the MDL 405 Junior Sailing Championship. Graham Vials and Jo Giles, two 15-year-olds who had already shown in the higher conditions on Saturday, held off Liam Murray and Sarah Ayton to take the title by winning four of the nine races. Tim Boon and Magnus Leask were third after faltering in the last heavy-weather race, when they were unable to take advantage of Murray and Ayton's forced retirement.

Norman left behind

GOLF: Greg Norman's return after five weeks away from the rigours of tournament play is unlikely to end in victory at the Bullock Open at the Pine Mountain course in Georgia. The world No 1 from Australia, was six shots behind the leaders, Fred Funk and Steve Stricker, both of the United States, after the third round. Funk and Stricker were locked together on 205, 11 under par, with five more American players — John Moore, Loren Roberts, Kirk Triplett, Larry Nelson and Jeff Siman — one stroke further back.

Singles title for Duff

BOWLS: Hugh Duff, of Scotland, won the Saga international singles championship, and the first prize of £10,000, at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday, beating Ian Schuback of Australia 2-7, 7-4, 7-1, in 24 hours. Duff, the 1988 world champion has regained the form he showed that year at Alexandra Palace, with marooned drawing to the jack and cool response to pressure. Both semi-finals were over in four sets, with Duff beating Paul Conlan, the Scottish champion, and Schuback beating Graham Robertson.

German follows Ryder Cup triumph with European Open play-off victory

Relentless Langer edges out Lane to reign in Europe

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

TWO of Europe's Ryder Cup golfers, whose deeds had been so enthralling in Rochester, New York, eight days ago dominated the closing moments of the Smurfit European Open at the K club, 20 miles south west of Dublin, yesterday afternoon. Bernhard Langer sank a huge putt on the last green that was to be good enough to get him into a play-off with Barry Lane — and then held another long putt to beat Lane at the second extra hole.

It was Langer's third win of the season and he looked as elated at the end as he had been over Europe's victory at Oak Hill a week earlier. Langer likes Ireland. He has won three Irish Opens as well. His 68 was the lowest round of a windy, stormy day and gave him a 72-hole aggregate of 280, eight under par.

Minutes earlier Colin Montgomerie had concluded a satisfactory week's work with a round of 70 to finish five under par. This was good enough for him to share third place and thus regain the leadership of the Order of Merit that he had surrendered to Sam Torrance when Torrance won the British Masters at Collingtree two weeks ago.

Montgomerie now leads Torrance by 1980 with two tournaments remaining and the two of them will fly off to Berlin later this week to resume their personal battle for supremacy in Europe.

"I am very tired," Montgomerie said. "I came here to make inroads into the £29,000 I am behind Sam and I came here to make it easier at the German Masters and the Volvo Masters [the two remaining events]. I have done that and I am happy. It was a good performance."

The way the weather turned on the last day made it look as though the meteorological gods were wanting Langer to

win. When the wind rises, the temperature drops, the greens spike up and any number of adverse conditions are present, and then Langer above all others can be relied on to do well simply because he does now allow himself to be worn down by these vicissitudes. He just gets on with the job in hand in his own time and at his own pace.

And autumn certainly arrived with an Irish roar at Straffan, dousing the competitors in golden sunshine, fierce, drumming rain interspersed with a slight drizzle and light and heavy winds. The course,

FINAL ROUND

GB & Ire unless stated 280: B Langer (Ger) 74, 70, 68, 68 (won at second extra hole); B Lane 67, 71, 71, 71, 280; C Montgomerie 71, 68, 72, 70, 71, 280; J Torrance (S) 69, 75, 67, 72, 69; P Rocca (I) 69, 75, 70, 70, 285; S Timpa (S) 69, 75, 70, 70, 71, 285; F Lane (I) 68, 73, 69, 75, 285; J Hoggman (S) 71, 70, 71, 74, 287; D Robertson 73, 72, 71, 71, 287; L Lehman (S) 70, 72, 72, 72, 286; P Lane (I) 72, 73, 73, 73, 286; A Forster (S) 70, 71, 72, 74, 286; C Mason 67, 73, 71, 78, 288; P Torrance (S) 72, 73, 70, 78, 288; M James 75, 70, 74, 72, 288; S Ames (I) 69, 71, 77, 71, 288; L Latta (S) 71, 72, 73, 72, 288; M Davis 73, 71, 72, 72, 288; J Westwood 72, 72, 72, 72, 288; M A Mann (S) 73, 73, 70, 73, 288; P J Johnson (S) 72, 71, 70, 70, 288; A Lyle 70, 70, 74, 76, 281; P Broadhurst 70, 72, 75, 74, 282; L Westwood 71, 77, 73, 71, 282; B Kerr 68, 72, 71, 75, 282; S Torrance 72, 72, 73, 73, 282; L Lindgren (S) 73, 70, 75, 74, 282; R Clayton 70, 74, 75, 75, 282; M Lammie (S) 75, 73, 67, 77.

already one of the most difficult on the European Tour, was transformed into a raging giant and the problems it posed were too demanding for some players. Montgomerie, Costantino Rocca, Andrew Coltart and Peter Teravainen recorded 70s, while nine men, including David Gifford, were 80 or worse.

But Lane just kept on playing the accurate golf he had demonstrated all week. He looked cool and calm and his face rarely showed any emotion. He is a good golfer and just how good was brought home by some of the low

boring iron shots he struck into the wind that was in his face on the tenth, eleventh and twelfth and fourteenth, for example.

Lane held a one-stroke lead after the twelfth and widened it when he holed a 15-foot putt on the fifteenth. As he played the seventeenth he heard a tremendous roar from the eighteenth. Langer had sunk an enormous putt, one even longer than Rocca's at the Open, to move to eight under par.

Langer was so excited, he looked as though he had won the Open. He threw his arms in the air and ran around the green punching the air. "If you can't show emotion when you've holed a 70-footer, when can you?" Langer said. Lane needed a birdie to win but after an enormous drive that left him using only a seven iron to the green, his 15-foot putt for victory curled tantalisingly around the hole.

His 71, his fourth under par round of the week, tied him at eight under par with Langer.

The two men halved the eighteenth, the first extra hole, in birdies and then Langer rammed in a putt of 20 feet for a birdie on the tenth, the second extra hole. At that moment of victory it was hard to remember that after Thursday's first round, in which Langer had taken a two over par 74, there was talk that he might miss the cut. But that's Langer for you, a man who never gives up.

Kent-born Denise Booker, from Australia, shot a closing-round 70 to win the Italian Open in Sicily yesterday and become the fifth first-time winner on the American Express Tour this season.

Booker, 23, finished one stroke clear of Spain's Amaia Arruti, the 1992 champion, whose chances of regaining the title disappeared when she took three putts on the final green.



Lane plays an iron shot during his final round of 71 before losing in a play-off

Courier proves too strong for Rusedski

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JIM COURIER eased past Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, in the semi-finals of the Swiss Open in Basle. In the other semi-final, Boris Becker withdrew because of an injury, allowing Jan Siemerink, of Holland, a clear run to the final.

Courier, of the United States, ranked No 9 in the world, rarely looked threatened in beating Rusedski 6-4, 6-4.

Becker didn't even set foot on court. A back injury which forced him to pull out of the Davis Cup semi-final against Russia last weekend was aggravated in a three-set marathon against Stefan Edberg and a doubles match on the indoor court on Friday.

"I strained something in my back and couldn't move afterward," Becker said. "There

was just no point in attempting to play the semi-final."

For the organisers, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the tournament, the loss of the star attraction was a blow.

"In 25 years of the Swiss Open, something like this has never happened before," Roger Brennwald, the tournament director, said. "It's especially disappointing because it is a jubilee year."

Courier is now odds-on favourite to win the title — which would be the eighteenth of his career. He has won three times so far this year.

The American's experience showed as he dispensed with Rusedski in 76 minutes. He broke the Briton's service game at 1-0 in the first set and 3-2 in the second set.

Siemerink is ranked No 24 on the ATP Tour. He has won one tournament in his career, in Singapore four years ago. He has advanced to a final twice this year, in Amsterdam and Long Island.

Colin Becher, of Kent, won his first title of the year by beating Udo Heuberg, from Switzerland, 6-3, 6-4 in the men's singles final at the LTA autumn satellite event at Telford yesterday. Amanda Hopmann, of Holland, beat Claire Taylor, of Oxfordshire, in the women's final.

Newlove looks good for England

Bradford Bulls 34
Sheffield Eagles 18

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

DOUBTS about the future of Paul Newlove at Bradford did not obscure his timely return to form and fitness yesterday ahead of England's opening Halifax World Cup match with Australia at Wembley on Saturday.

Bradford have reluctantly admitted that they are now open to offers for the international centre, who emphasised the value placed on him by both club — £750,000 — and country with a hat-trick of tries in only his fourth appearance of the season.

Australia's defence will not be as generous as was the pale imitation offered by Sheffield yesterday, but Newlove's first score saw the man at his very best. From 30 yards, Aston

was left groping thin air. So too were Sodie and Banquet as the centre breezed over for a try that effectively settled a generally woebegone Stones Championship encounter midway through the first half.

That try, and the way Newlove had set up Scales for the first of Bradford's seven touch-downs, will have convinced Phil Larder that he can tick his name off the casualty list. The England coach knows the side he wants for Wembley, but Gary Connolly, of Wigan, spent the weekend in hospital with pneumonia, and his team-mate, Martin Offiah, has had a leg muscle injury.

The most intriguing of Larder's announcements on Wednesday will concern the identity of Newlove's centre partner, Kris Radlinski, 19, is a narrow favourite.

Newlove, signed from Featherstone for a club record of £245,000 in 1993, has been

unsettled at Odsal since Peter Fox, his mentor, was dismissed as coach at the end of last season. His transfer request was initially refused but Newlove rejected an improved contract last week.

Chris Caisley, the Bradford chairman, said that if Newlove, who is contracted for another three years, was to go, it would be on the club's terms. "Paul has told us he wants to leave, and if there is a sensational offer for him, then, yes, every player has his price," he said.

Bradford's first home win under Brian Smith, Fox's Australian successor, against the bottom club, owed much to the tactical astuteness of Deryck Fox at scrum half. On three occasions he put boot to ball to produce second-half tries.

Hesitation under the high ball in a swirling wind cost Bradford one of the four tries they conceded. Ellis failed to

judge Aston's bomb and the ball bounced into the arms of the grateful Senior.

There was an awful end-of-term feel to much of the game, with the domestic season shutting down for the four weeks of the World Cup. Both sides were sloppy in defence. After an eighth defeat in nine games, Sheffield are glad to reach the break knowing that there is no relegation.

Stuart Cummings, the Widnes referee, will take charge of the opening World Cup match between England and Australia on Saturday. SCORERS: Bradford: tries, Newlove (3), Scales, Fox, Phil Hall, Graham Fox (3); Sheffield: tries, Carr (3), Senior, Sodie, Bradford Bulls: S Scales, G Corrie, C Hall, P Newlove, J Scales, R Ford, S G McCormack, G Miles, D Fox, A Vellard (sub), Bourneville, 15, J Doran, J Horner, P Dean, A Broadbent (sub), K Featherstone, 55, P Medley (sub), R Summers, 48.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES: P Smeaton (sub), D Myers, 40, S Sodie, L Sooty, S Senior, R Pridley (sub), R Rimmerwood, 67, D Lawford, 64, A Olin, P Broadbent, J Lewis, 9, Whateau (sub), A N Olin, 40, B Biers, 74, 1 Hughes, P Carr, M Cook. Referee: C Morris.

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Hill accepts the inevitable after German's bold victory in European Grand Prix

Schumacher drives to verge of world title

FROM OLIVER HOIT
AT NÜRBURGRING

DAMON HILL conceded the Formula One motor racing world drivers' championship to Michael Schumacher yesterday with a wave and a thumbs-up sign. After the German's daring, dashing win in front of a capacity home crowd in the European Grand Prix here, and his bitter rivals' premature exit, the Year of the F1 is over now, save for the mathematical niceties.

In a race full of action, Schumacher threw caution to the wind in the closing stages of the 67-lap contest and risked everything to pass the Ferrari of Jean Alesi two laps from the end to take the lead. Their wheels touched as they entered the chicane but Schumacher stuck to his outside line and emerged with his nose in front.

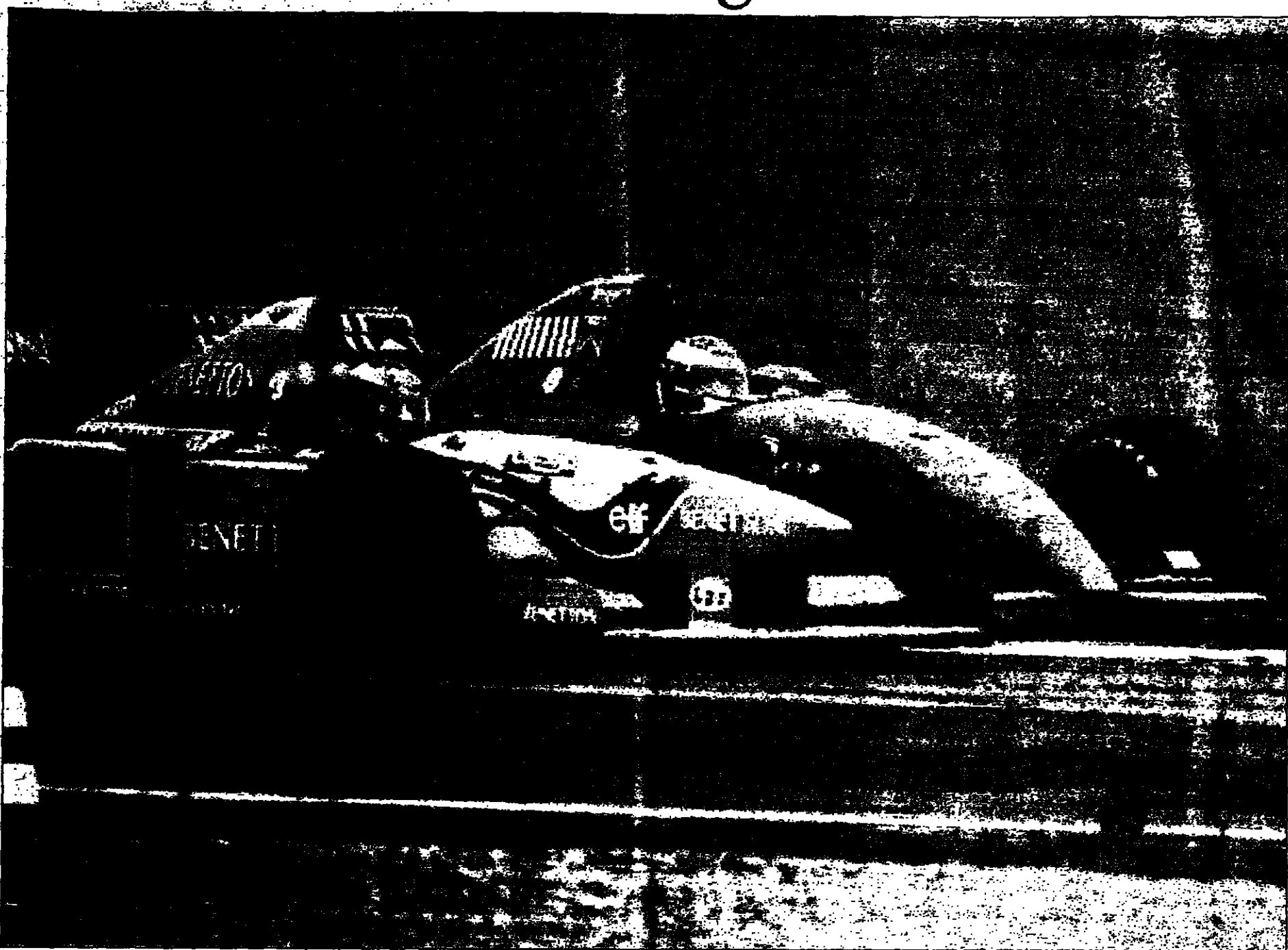
By then, Hill could only watch and admire. His chances of victory disappeared on the 40th lap, when he tried to overtake Alesi and lost his front wing in the process. Hill rejoined the race in fourth place after a pitstop to repair the damage but spun off seven laps from the end. He was helped behind the fence, nursing a pair of aching knees, but emerged back onto the side of the track to applaud Schumacher's moment of triumph.

Schumacher now leads the race for the title by 27 points with three races to go. Even if Hill wins the Pacific Grand Prix in Aida, Japan, in three weeks' time, the reigning world champion will only need to finish fourth to secure a second successive title. The grands prix at Suzuka and Adelaide should be academic.

"I am not going to be world champion this year," Hill said. "But I will be back. I am very disappointed but I did everything I could. I don't feel disgraced myself in any way. The thumbs-up sign was me conceding the championship. It is only a mathematical fight now."

"I can still put up a bloody good fight between now and the end of the year, and I would like to win the last three races. But, today, Michael drove a great race and won again. Hats off to the guy. He's a very good racing driver. I went off at the end because I was pushing hard. I wanted to win. Second was not good enough."

The best race of even this exceptional season redeemed a weekend that had been dis-



Schumacher, in the Benetton-Renault, edges past Alesi's Ferrari to take the lead as they negotiate the chicane with two laps left in the European Grand Prix yesterday

gusted only by the appalling weather and the whiff of Formula One's first drugs scandal. Two drivers, Rubens Barrichello, of Jordan, and Max Papis, of Footwork, said they feared they had fallen foul of the banned drugs list by taking cold remedies containing ephedrine and phenylephrine respectively. They are unlikely to be punished because the drugs in question were taken innocently and could not improve the performance of a grand prix driver.

Hill, who was also tested last Friday, faced an uphill struggle in yesterday's race

from the moment that he lost second place to Schumacher as they went in to the first corner, pursuing David Coulthard, whose move to McLaren next year was confirmed by the team yesterday morning. Coulthard, though, was forced to drive the spare car after sliding off the track on the way to the grid and soon dropped out of contention for the lead.

The race became a battle of two brilliant wet-weather drivers. Alesi, starting from sixth place on the grid, gambled on a bold strategy of making only one pitstop and running on

stuck tyres on a damp track. When Schumacher, Hill and then Coulthard all made their first stops within the first 12 laps, Alesi raced into the lead. As Hill said Schumacher became locked in a fierce battle for third place. Alesi drove away into the distance. By the halfway stage, he had built a lead of 40 seconds over the world champion.

But, after he made his only stop on the 34th lap, the track began to dry and his strategy told against him as his tyres lost their grip. However, after Schumacher made his third stop, with 16 laps to go, he

emerged more than 22 seconds behind the Frenchman and thought the race was lost. But he began scything into Alesi's advantage and charged for the chequered flag. His margin of victory was 2.6 seconds. "I asked myself after my last pitstop whether I wanted to stay in second or fight for the win," Schumacher said. "I was so strongly pushed by my fans that I really wanted to give them a victory. I knew Damon was already out of the race and that, even if I did not finish, I would still have a 17-point lead going into the last three races, so I went for it."

NÜRBURGRING DETAILS

RESULT (67 laps, 3.5292 Mm): 1. M. Schumacher (Ger), Benetton, 1hr 33min 59.044sec (average speed 183.150mph); 2. J. Alesi (Fr), Ferrari, at 12.68sec; 3. D. Coulthard (GB), Williams, at 35.382; 4. R. Barrichello (Br), Jordan, one lap; 5. J. Herbert (GB), Benetton, one lap; 6. E. J. Jordan, one lap; 7. M. Papis (It), Footwork, one lap; 8. M. Papis (It), Footwork, one lap; 9. P. Lamy (Fr), Minardi, three laps; 10. M. Salo (Fin), Tyrrell, three laps; 11. L. Badoer (It), Minardi, three laps; 12. M. Papis (It), Footwork, three laps; 13. P. Ditz (Fr), Forti, two laps; 14. G. Tarquini (It), Forti, one lap; 15. J. D. Delestraz (Swi), Pacific, seven laps. Did not finish: 16. D. Hill (GB), Williams, 56 laps completed; 17. A. Montanari (It), Pacific, 45 laps; 18. J. C. Boulton (Fr), Sauber, 44 laps; 19. G. Berger (Aust), Ferrari, 40 laps; 20. R. Moreno (Br), Forti, 22 laps; 21. H. Frentzen (Ger), Sauber, 17 laps; 22. C. Pato (Fr), Ligier, 14 laps; 23. M. Blundell (GB), McLaren, 14 laps; 24. T. 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Chelsea's celebrated import takes charge as Arsenal fail to unlock skills of Bergkamp

Gullit dominates contest between Dutch masters

Chelsea 1
Arsenal 0

By DAVID MILLER

IT WOULD be too much to expect Bruce Rioch to change, within weeks, the habits of a team for years moulded by George Graham. He has not. In a match which a dozen or so visiting Dutch journalists found hard to recognise as the game they know, Chelsea weathered a formless, often nasty first half to emerge as deserving winners, thus ending Arsenal's unbeaten FA Carling Premiership run.

In the contest between rival Holland internationals, Gullit, after a first half best forgotten, wholly overshadowed Bergkamp, who suffered throughout from the fact that neither Parlor nor Jensen in central midfield, nor Dixon and Winterburn, full backs masquerading as midfield players, have yet learnt how and when to pass to his feet.

For Rioch then to criticise Martin Bodenham, the referee — wretchedly incompetent though he was, and arguably responsible by neglect for some of the later player petulance — seemed particularly inappropriate. There are moments when Arsenal appear to have converted football into a branch of the martial arts, using every limb and joint to dispossess the opposition by means that rampantly flout the laws.

As a player, Rioch was himself a hard man, though his Bolton Wanderers team were not noted for intimidation. He should, I think, be less concerned with Arsenal's first loss of the season than with the meanness of spirit and the collective failure, as yet, to release the skills of Bergkamp. And with the spitting, I counted seven of his players spitting, less out of

biological necessity than gesture. If Pavarotti does not find it necessary to spit on stage, why do they?

It may, of course, have been out of frustration at the inadequate quackery of Bodenham. In the tenth minute alone, he indulgently took no action, not even a quiet verbal aside, for four obvious, consecutive fouls. It was inevitable that ill-temper, and abuse, would escalate.

Ultimately, Bodenham found himself having to take six names, five of them Arsenal players, and to send off Spackman, the Chelsea midfielder, for punching Keown, who needed treatment before also being booked for pulling Spackman's shirt and being immediately substituted by Linighan. Bodenham seems quite unaware, for instance, that one can illegally impede an opponent as much

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with chest or hip as with arm or leg.

Back-heel the ball away at a free kick, on the other hand, as Bergkamp did in frustration, and that is instantly bookable. Bodenham's relationship with realities seemed as distant as a meter maid's from a Formula One grand prix. When Hughes blatantly elbowed Bould ... no action.

The first memorable, coherent move came only three minutes before half-time. Bergkamp and Wright, who often threatened to light a fuse for each other, combined cleverly and Kharine had to save from Wright low to his left.

Six minutes into the second half, Winterburn fouled Peacock to the right of the penalty area. From Wise's free kick, Gullit rose to head against the inside of Seaman's right-hand post, after which a corner was

conceded on Arsenal's left flank. Wise's kick was back-headed on the near post. Furlong took a swipe from beyond the far post, the ball was blocked and Hughes drove in the rebound with characteristic force. Almost immediately, at the other end, Bergkamp nodded sideways to open a half-chance for Wright, but he shot weakly.

The tactical interest of the afternoon was that both teams were playing with sweepers. Gullit and Adams respectively behind Johnsen and Sinclair, Bould and Keown. Gullit, a master of ball control, was unsurprisingly the superior, and in the second half increasingly began to unhinge Arsenal as he became forward in brief bursts to supplement the attack.

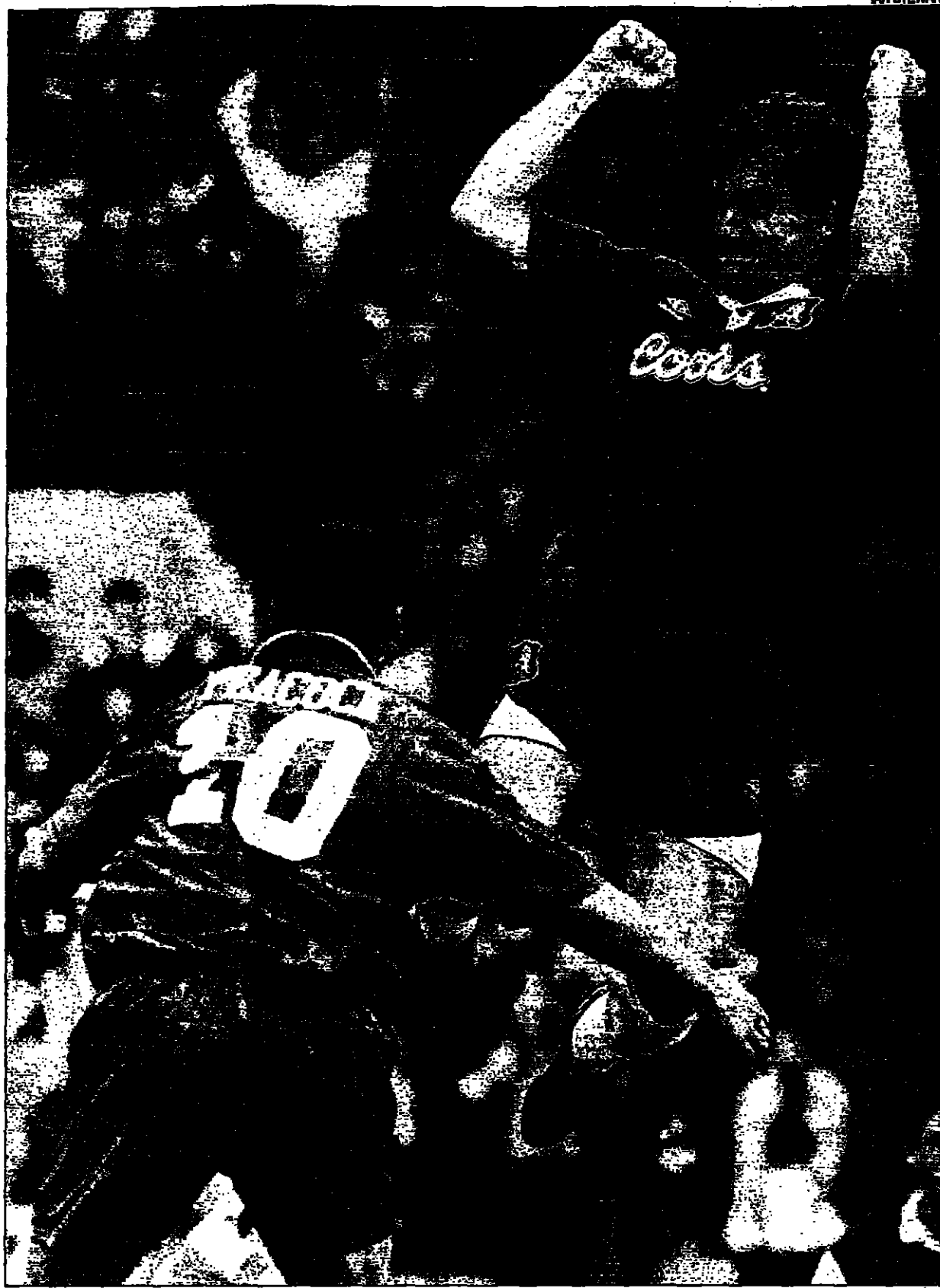
With Arsenal becoming less accurate in midfield, Wise, Spackman, Peacock and Myers achieved a grip on the match that they were unlikely to relinquish. Bergkamp, robbing Sinclair of the ball but shooting wide, and Holder, substituting for Jensen and seizing on an error by Sinclair, might have levelled the score, though that would seriously have flattered Arsenal.

Yet the combination of Wright and the £7.5 million Bergkamp will clearly cause danger to many defences in the months ahead, much more so, I suspect, than Hughes and Furlong. Arsenal's midfield players should be sent on a crash-course studying videos of Bergkamp at his peak with Ajax and Holland. Come to think of it, that would benefit most of the players in the Premiership.

CHelsea (1-2-2-2): D. Keown — R. Gullit — C. Burley, F. Sinclair, E. Johnsen — A. Peacock (sub: E. Newton, S. Brown), D. Wise, N. Spackman, A. Myers — M. Hughes, P. Furlong.

ARSENAL (1-2-2-2): D. Seaman — A. Adams — N. Wotton (sub: A. Linighan), S. Bould — L. Dixon, P. Winstanley, J. Jensen (sub: G. Holder, 72), R. Parlor, N. Winterburn — I. Wright, D. Bergkamp.

Referee: M. Bodenham



Hughes, the Chelsea forward, shows his delight after scoring the only goal of the game at Stamford Bridge

Slick Barmby highlights Blackburn's deficiencies



Barmby: impressive

Middlesbrough 2
Blackburn Rovers 0

By IVO TENNANT

THERE were those at the start of the season who reckoned that Middlesbrough were ripe for relegation: the same misguided speculators, perhaps, who felt that Blackburn Rovers might become champions of Europe. As was evident on Saturday, only one of these clubs has risen above its station.

Blackburn's difficulties can be seen in two ways. One, the viewpoint of Jan Aage Fjortoft, the forward whose countrymen so embarrassed Blackburn in Norway last week, is that

they, and indeed England, should not flirt with a foreign style of football. "Blackburn played the long ball last year and won the Premiership," the Middlesbrough forward said in highly articulate English. "It can be quite effective if mixed with shorter passing. English football is better than you in England think is the case. I am not here to tell anybody how to perform but if you go out and play with heart and strength, you will have success in the European championship."

There is another standpoint, one that carries more credibility. "Where is the skill, where is George Best?" the part-timers of Rosenborg, of Trondheim, asked of Blackburn last week. It was a rhetorical question,

one that might have been delivered with even greater derision if they had appreciated that Ray Harford once managed Wimbledon.

So, no Best, but there is at least one player who will concern the Norwegians during the forthcoming European championship. Nick Barmby, by according to Fjortoft, be "a sensation". Harford put this match into perspective when he was asked if he was impressed with Middlesbrough. "Not particularly," he said in a gravelly voice. "but I was very impressed with Barmby."

Fjortoft regards Barmby's potential "as enormous as the fee on his shoulder". To judge by Middlesbrough's second goal, which Barmby made for Hignett with the most

precise pass, the two forwards already have a telling understanding. Fjortoft began the move with a deft back-heel as will be seen from a gawky forward.

Barmby had given Middlesbrough the lead a minute before half-time, finishing a sweeping move at full stretch in the penalty area. By the end of the match, he was being man-handled by Blackburn's central defence in a way that suggested he will be in need of some watchful refereeing in the years to come.

In the programme, Bryan Robson, Middlesbrough's player-manager, stated that the British footballer he would most like to have in his team would be Alan Shearer. It seemed on Saturday as if he has the player every

manager now treasures. Harford, by contrast, freely admits that he is in need of new players.

There is something wrong with his tactics, too, for Blackburn have lost all four away matches in the Premiership to opponents — Sheffield Wednesday, Bolton Wanderers, Liverpool and Middlesbrough — who favoured a three-man central defence.

So they lack players, tactics, form, ability to adapt their game in Europe, and, of course, Kenny Dalglish. It does not bode well.

MIDDLESBROUGH (2-2-2-1): G. Walsh — N. Cox, N. Pearson, S. Vokes, D. Wright, C. Morris — P. Bock, R. Hignett — C. Hignett, N. Barmby — J. A. Fjortoft.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (0-0-0-0): T. Flowers — I. Pearson, C. Sutton, C. Hendry — J. Kanra, T. Shawcross, D. Baily, M. Holmes (sub: P. Winstanley, S. Smith, I. Berg — M. Newell, A. Shearer).

Referee: P. Alcock

City's slide leaves Ball speechless

Nottingham Forest 3
Manchester City 0

By RICHARD HOBSON

FOR someone who, on the eve of this game, was claiming that his job was the envy of millions, Alan Ball cut a sombre figure as he marched from the dressing-room to the team coach after Manchester City's seventh successive FA Carling Premiership defeat.

The manager reacted to this latest setback — the margin of Forest's win could easily have been doubled — by refusing to hold a press conference for the first time since his appointment and by muttering darkly about the way his words had been twisted in recent weeks. Unfortunately for Ball, however, there are certain facts that brook no misinterpretation.

A return of one point from a possible 24 is the worst start in City's history and leaves them at the bottom of the table, with Manchester United, Liverpool and Leeds United as their next opponents.

Even before Ian Brightwell's sending-off in the fortieth minute, for kicking the ball away less than a minute after his first bookable offence, City had been unable to match the organisation, technique, fluency and movement of Nottingham Forest, who stretched their own unbeaten run in the Premiership to 21 matches.

Such form reflects creditably on their manager, Frank Clark, who feels for Ball. "In a lot of ways he's in a similar position to me when I replaced

Brian Clough and had to get rid of the doom and gloom about the place," he said. "But at least we were in the first division, so it made things a bit easier. In the Premiership the standard is far higher and when you inherit problems you can't always solve them in a few games."

Two years ago, Clark responded to relegation under Clough by signing Stan Collymore. How Ball could use a striker of such merit now. Other than a shot from the substitute, Summerbee, which hit a post, City never appeared capable of breaching a defence superbly marshalled by Pearce.

Mysteriously, against a side perceived as vulnerable in the air, Quinn remained on the substitutes' bench.

As a final, unhappy irony, City found themselves undone by a man called Lee. Not Francis, their chairman, who has so far avoided the wrath of supporters, but the dreadlocked Jason, who scored in the tenth and 46th minutes to crown his energetic Uefa Cup performance four days earlier.

Stone added a third goal eight minutes from time in a match which, despite eight bookings on top of Brightwell's dismissal, rarely provoked much passion. It was too one-sided for that.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-2-2): M. Croxall — D. Lyle, S. Christie, C. Cooper, S. Pearce — S. Stone, C. Bart-Williams, L. Bohannon (sub: S. Gerrard, S. Smith), I. Wotton — L. Lee, S. Roy (sub: A. Siano, S. S. Siano).

MANCHESTER CITY (4-2-2): E. Smith — I. Brightwell, K. Curle, K. Symington, J. Foster — M. Brown, S. Lomas, G. Kivricic, P. Baggins — U. Rabier, G. Croxall (sub: N. Summerbee, S. S. Siano).

Referee: M. Flood

Yeboah's artistry comes shining through

Leeds United 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

By PETER BALL

ALAN BALL is not the only manager in the FA Carling Premiership to have inherited a big club with big problems. Sheffield Wednesday's problems may pale beside those of Manchester City, but, if their supreme performance at Elland Road on Saturday is any guide, David Pleat, too, is facing a long, hard season.

Judging a team on one performance can be misleading, and Pleat conceded that it was their "most passive" display of the season. Leeds United, too, until they were lifted by another spectacular goal from Yeboah, were awful.

the first 35 sterile minutes making Blackburn Rovers' efforts in Norway look imaginative and purposeful by comparison.

But Leeds had a long injury list as an excuse, and they at least responded to the impetus that Yeboah gave them. They are still a side who prefer power to subtlety, but with Kelly as the spare man among three centre halves, they improved from mediocrity to competence as they came to terms with the new formation, and, particularly after the arrival of Brian Deane, they had some good moments.

Wednesday, by contrast, responded to adversity with a metaphorical shrug of the shoulders and went through the motions. David Hirst was sent off for using foul or

abusive language after a free kick had been awarded against him — his only moment of animation in the match.

If anything, they did better with ten men. "It didn't hurt us as much as I expected," Pleat said. "We kept our spirit going." Spirit? Howard Wilkinson denied them any consolation from that, blaming instead his team for becoming self-indulgent.

At least the self-indulgence brought some incidents to savour. Yeboah hit a post with another thundering drive. Deane had one effort blocked on the line and another, a spectacular volley, ruled out for offside, and set up the second goal for Speed. By the end the entertainment had just passed muster — thanks once

again to Yeboah, whose latest effort, while not as immediately spectacular as those against Liverpool and Wimbledon, was equally admirable.

After receiving a short pass from Palmer near the touchline, Yeboah looked up, side-stepped an attempted tackle, accelerated between two more Wednesday defenders, evaded Waddle and fired a stunning low shot past Pressman.

Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, strikes gold when he moves into the European markets — and Yeboah's temperament is as placid as Cantona's is volatile. "They tell me he [Yeboah] doesn't do much in training, but he's got a secret — he's a very laid-back player when he's out there," Pleat said.

"He seems very relaxed,

whether he's shooting, controlling the ball or moving with the ball. He doesn't seem tense like English players, being very at ease in everything he does. He seemed to side-step the defender and then it was as though he was practising a shot. Some practice."

English players please note — although in Sheffield Wednesday's case a bit of teeth-clenched determination might bring about an improvement.

LEEDS UNITED (2-0-2-1): J. Lisle — D. Wetherall, G. Kelly, P. Bessley — A. Cantona, C. Palmer, M. Taylor, G. McCallister, G. Speed — P. Masehra (sub: S. Deane, S. Smith), A. Walsh.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (0-0-0-0): K. Pressman — P. Atherton, A. Pearce, D. G. Pugh, C. Wicks, M. Parnham, I. Hagan (sub: J. Sheehan, 45) — D. Hirst, M. Duggan (sub: M. Bright, 59).

Referee: G. Poll

Sheringham intervenes to leave Wimbledon in a jam

Tottenham Hotspur 3
Wimbledon 1

By ALYSON RUDD

JUST as the death, instead of the survival, of a particular mosquito two million years BC might have resulted in mankind evolving with one eye and saucer-sized navel, it will never be known what might have happened if Jason Dozzell had not been stuck in traffic on the A12 on Saturday.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, wanted Dozzell in the starting line-up but was forced into a last-minute change, bringing in Gerry McMahon instead. In the event, the scampering

pace of the young Northern Ireland forward was exactly what a leaden, injury-hit Wimbledon side did not need. Nor were they enthralled at meeting one of the more robust testis to emerge from White Hart Lane in recent years. Tottenham soaked up the punches and repelled every unimaginative clearance.

For once, Wimbledon had an excuse. So few of the side were fit that keeping the ball in the air at least staved off the discomfort of ball control.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, complained last week that his team were "Yeboahed": this time they were "Teddie". Sheringham scored his eighth and ninth

goals of the season. They both bore his hallmark of patience, precision and of being in the right place at the right time.

Nobody in English football has mastered the art of anticipating what cannot be foreseen quite like Sheringham. His talent makes him the perfect partner for Chris Armstrong.

The former Crystal Palace forward works hard and is unlucky, with his strikes invariably hitting the woodwork or a defender. Even as he was being acclaimed for scoring his first FA Carling Premiership goal of the season, the giant video screen was replaying the fact that the final touch belonged to Elkins, the Wimbledon full

back. "I don't care if he doesn't score at all, if he keeps making them for Teddy," Francis said. Poor Armstrong. He does not want to "make" everything. It just always turns out that way.

Sheringham could be forgiven for thinking that a place in the England side travelling to Norway is feasible. However, if Terry Venables, the England coach, maintains his attempt to remould his players and his system, then Sheringham is the wrong type of player.

The random, pinball, do-or-die defending of the Premiership is food and drink to Sheringham, but he will not find Continental opposition willing to provide it. And

England, under Venables, are unlikely to create it, either.

This was not a game of the highest calibre. Had Wimbledon been more positive they could have taken more than one goal from some slack Tottenham defending. But it did provide yet another argument for the striking partnership. If Venables does not adopt one, however, nobody will know what kind of difference it could make.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-2-2): I. Walker — D. Austin, G. McRobbie, C. Caldwell, C. Wilson — R. Renshaw, D. Howells (sub: J. Dozzell, 36min), G. Campbell, G. McMahon — C. Armstrong, E. Sheringham.

WIMBLEDON (0-0-0-0): K. Carrington, A. Thom, C. Pugh, G. Elkins — P. Fear (sub: J. Goodman, 65), A. Eale, V. Jones, D. Listerdale (sub: A. Clarke, 59) — D. Haddock, M. Gayle.

Referee: G. Asbury

Coventry discover practice makes imperfect

Coventry City 0
Aston Villa 3

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

PICK a tactic and practise it in training, over and over again, hone it to perfection and then prepare to perform it on the big day. Approaching kick-off, play it through the mind one last time before going out and showing how effective it can be. Simple, really — or so Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City manager, believed last week.

Most best-laid plans can come a cropper, often spectacularly, but when the match has barely started? When many supporters are still finding their seats and when the team that had practised, over and over again, had not even touched the ball? Atkinson's glittering career has suffered many humbling experiences, but, at Highfield Road on Saturday, it tested sorely even his famed jocularly.

Aston Villa, Atkinson's former club, went ahead after 13 seconds — equaling the quickest goal in the FA Carling Premiership, scored by Chris Sutton of Blackburn Rovers, against Everton in April. Townsend tapped the ball to Milosevic, Milosevic fed Draper, Draper picked out Taylor; Taylor, after three touches, crossed to Yorke; Yorke headed past Filan. Easy, so easy. Five movements, incisive and unchallenged, had consigned Atkinson's strategy to the bin.

"We'd done a whole week of defensive work, a whole week," he lamented, amid a massive sense of humour failure. "And then we concede a goal in three seconds. It was stupid, just stupid. I couldn't believe it."

Atkinson's presence at the post-match press conference lasted not much longer than it had taken to pierce his slumbering defence. He sought solace, intellectual and otherwise, from the many friends and former colleagues who had made the short hop over from Villa Park. He did stay long enough, however, to add that Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper, had had to make several fine saves, that there were a number of pleasing aspects to Coventry's display and that the scoreline had flattened a team that still included five players he had nurtured. He was right on every count.

Having been suckered so early, Coventry could have collapsed. That they did not owed much to the aggression of Telfer, the persistence of Hall and the marvellous thrusts of Ndlovu. Considering that the central third of the pitch was frequently clogged with ten players, it was a curiously open and invigorating spectacle.

Bosnich was indeed inspired, particularly in the first half, when he clawed away efforts from Pickering, Telfer, Ndlovu and Salako. Villa had their chances, too, notably falling to Milosevic and Draper, while Elongu was fortunate to escape with only a caution after hauling down Ndlovu in mid-flight.

Yet Villa always appeared able to retaliate or resist, whichever was more appropriate, and Milosevic's two late goals, expertly converted, eased them home. For Coventry, it is back to the training ground. To practise and practise and practise.

COVENTRY CITY (0-0-0-0): J. Platt — S. Brown, D. Sutt, P. Williams — A. Pickering (sub: S. Brown, 45min), P. Richardson, M. Hall — J. Salako, P. Ndlovu.

ASTON VILLA (3-0-0-0): M. Bosnich — U. Elongu, S. Sutton, G. Southgate — G. Campbell — D. Telfer, S. Milosevic, A. Townsend. Referee: A. Miles.

Coventry could face an investigation by the Football Association after it coin was allegedly thrown at Bosnich.

Alan Wilson, the referee, said that he would include the incident in his match report.



Sheringham: patient

Penalty provides Cantona with comeback confrontation

We had tricoulours with Eric's head superimposed above the slogan "back with vengeance": we had Plastic Bertrand over the loudspeaker and the Return of the Magnificent Seven; we had Saint Eric and, more meta-physically, God. We had Albert Cantona, Eric's father, moustache bristling, standing on the forecourt signing autographs and looking as lost as a little boy on his first visit to the promised land.

We had Old Trafford turned into a little enclave of Provence; we had Eric Cantona's comeback and in there somewhere we had a game of football, dominated

in footballing terms for the most part by Liverpool but featuring with telling inevitability a Cantona goal, a penalty struck with nerveless ease midway through the second half. More than any of the other paraphernalia of an extraordinary day, the penalty signalled Cantona's return to normal duty. He has always professed to love the cut and thrust, the loneliness and the confrontational element of the penalty. There is only one winner, Cantona says, and so it is right in the centre of his mental domain. Me against him. Me against the world.

There was no doubting that Cantona would beat the

world, this time and his celebratory jig round the back stanchion which followed his first goal since that far-post header against Blackburn, three days before his ban, was an instinctive emotional response to the recent counting of days. Was it right that Cantona should take the penalty, Ferguson was asked. "Who was going to take it off him," he asked in return. In truth, much of the rest would be best forgotten. Except that Cantona survived the ordeal with his temper intact and his status undiminished in the eyes of the Old Trafford crowd, at least. Red October maybe, but no sign of the red mist.



Andrew Longmore watches as the French prodigal makes a subdued return to Old Trafford

But after ten months of angst and anguish, in which his stature seemed to grow in direct proportion to his inactivity, it was not surprising that the Frenchman's first competitive game back had a surreal air quite worthy of the central character. Liverpool, usually the most competitive of outfits, even seemed to conspire in the suspension of belief, obligingly allowing Cantona the freedom of the borough to make United's

goal after 68 seconds with a long, raking, cross from the left and declaring Cantona a tackle-free zone after that.

"For Manchester United versus Liverpool, it was tame, very tame," Alex Ferguson, manager of United, said. "I don't think the hype helped either team."

For an hour or more, in fact, Cantona operated in a halo of ground, infiltrated neither by friend or foe, almost as though both sides

were aware that, on such an emotional day, Eric needed some privacy. The signs had been there well before the game.

"Eric has been very quiet this week, no doubt making his own personal preparations," Alex Ferguson wrote in the programme. His colleagues had confined their pre-match best wishes to the odd handshake — as, indeed, did the opposing captain, Ian Rush. And the game went on around him and occasionally he deigned to join in, reminding everyone of what the fuss was all about, with a deft flick or a casual piece of control. Mostly, the image, the proud chest, the jutting chin, the

face which has adorned a thousand Nike posters was more prominent than the substance.

Cantona's much touted return bout with Neil "Razor" Ruddock, the Liverpool centre back who had taken exception to Cantona's upturned collar and strutting demeanour at their last meeting, proved to be as competitive as a Frank Bruno warm-up bout and only late in the game, when both sides pressed for the winner, did even a vestige of animation touch the angelic tranquility of football's most wanted son. This was a test to be survived. The heroics will have to wait. The end was very much

more subdued than the triumphalism of the beginning. One last chant of "Ooh, Aah, Cantona" before with a raise of the right hand and he was gone, the applause muted as the truth dawned over Old Trafford that St Eric will not singlehandedly be able to ordain United as champions this season. There will be better and more difficult days than this. But, as Alex Ferguson said, the show must go on. "We had a dream start and then forgot to play football," he said. "But Eric can be well pleased with his performance. But to be honest, I've talked enough about Cantona." For once, no one was inclined to argue.

Newcastle stroll clear in impressive style at top of FA Carling Premiership

Ferdinand leads demolition of hapless Everton

Everton 1
Newcastle United 3

By Peter Ball

THE eyes of the football world may have been on Liverpool and Manchester United yesterday, but Newcastle United made sure that they stayed top of the FA Carling Premiership for the next two weeks whatever happened at Old Trafford. Their victory over a dishevelled, injury-ravaged Everton was even more comprehensive than the scoreline suggests.

"To control a game like that against Everton for the periods we did makes that our best performance of the season," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "We competed with them when we had to and possibly should have won by more."

Worrying for Everton, Newcastle won the battles as well as the contest in skills. Les Ferdinand led from the front with an imposing display and, behind him, Robert Lee was everywhere. "Joe (Royce, the Everton manager) labels his midfield 'the dogs of war', but

Robert won the battle and he's got ability as well," Keegan said. Against that, Everton had little to offer, not even their old competitive quality keeping them in the game.

"We've got to get back to the spirit that took us away from trouble last year," Royce said. "I've been loyal to the players who did that for us, but perhaps one or two are having trouble recreating that spirit."

Even spirit would probably not have been enough against Newcastle in this mood. Had Ginola, who took over Beardsley's role alongside Ferdinand, been at his rampant best, who knows how many Newcastle would have won by. The Frenchman had his moments, but generally gave a muted performance, as if unwilling to engage his compatriot's big day, 30 miles to the east. Gillespie, too, was relatively subdued.

With Ferdinand in that mood, though, it hardly mattered. Rarely has Watson been shrugged aside so easily and so often Ferdinand's power and pace giving the Everton captain a miserable afternoon. "His leading of the front line

was superb," Keegan said. "If he had just stuck the two chances away as well as the goal he made out of nothing, you would say it was as good a centre forward's performance as you could have."

Ferdinand has now scored ten goals in nine games for Newcastle and his claim for a place in the England squad to be announced this week is looking increasingly hard to resist. However, Ferdinand was not alone. Even without Beardsley and with Ginola lasting little longer than an hour, Newcastle are going to be difficult to overtake. Manchester United and Liverpool may have their admirers and there may still be reservations about the Newcastle defence, but it will take a very good side to deny them their first title since 1977.

"Last year, we looked like a team that maybe thought we might win something," Keegan said. "Now we look like a team who believe we can win something this year."

They are undoubtedly a more impressive, more powerful side and Ferdinand's arrival has given them an extra dimension. In the first half, he was irresistible, scoring a goal of thrilling power and shaking the Everton defence to its foundations every time that he got within sight of goal. Only some uncharacteristically sloppy finishing denied him a hat-trick.

There was nothing sloppy about that goal, though, which set Newcastle on their way after 11 minutes. Everton had just enjoyed their best passage of the match, Grant hitting the bar with a clever chip. Hislop saving from Rideout and then Watson heading the resulting corner just over the bar in a two-minute spell. It seemed as if a match was on, but then Howey brought the ball out of defence and found Ferdinand just inside the centre circle. The striker turned Watson with a shrug, leaving the former England centre half on his back and accelerated smoothly away.

"Not so much a run as a surge," Keegan said admiringly. For 20 yards, Everton



Ferdinand races round Southall, the sprawling goalkeeper, as Hinchcliffe, the Everton defender, looks on

backed off. When Unsworth decided that it was time to challenge, it was too late. As the defender moved in, Ferdinand rifled a low shot into the corner.

From that moment, the only question was the margin of

Newcastle's victory. They contented themselves with two, Lee scoring from the penalty spot after Ginola had "won" a penalty as he ran into Unsworth and Kison replaced the Frenchman in time to head in Barton's cross.

A 3-0 scoreline seemed about right, but Everton gave the game a slightly spurious ending when Linpar was allowed to run through and score, although he looked at least five yards offside. By then, of course, it did not matter.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): N Southall — E Barnett, D Watson, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe — J Edgar, J Parkinson (sub A Linpar, 45min), B Howe, A Grant — G Smith, F Rideout.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Hickey — W Barton, D Pearson, S Howey, J Beardsley — K Gillespie (sub S Watson, 77), R Lee, L Clark, S Sedgley — D Ginola (sub P Varion, 64), I Ferdinand.

Referee: K Cooper (Porthmadoc)

Placed	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle United	21	+13	WLWWW
2 Manchester United	17	+10	WWWWW
3 Liverpool	16	+10	WWWWW
4 Arsenal	15	+9	DWWWL
5 Blackburn Rovers	15	+5	DDWWW
6 Aston Villa	14	+4	DDWDW
7 Southampton	14	+4	WWWWW
8 Chelsea	13	+3	DDWWL
9 Nottingham Forest	12	+3	DDWWL
10 Sheffield Wednesday	11	+2	LLWWL
11 Derby County	11	+2	DDWLL
12 West Ham United	10	+1	DDWLL
13 Southampton	9	-1	DDWLL
14 Brighton	8	-1	LLWLL
15 Manchester City	8	-1	LLWLL
16 Reading	8	-1	DDWLL
17 West Bromwich Albion	7	-2	DDWLL
18 Sheffield Wednesday	7	-2	DDWLL
19 Bolton Wanderers	7	-2	DDWLL
20 Queens Park Rangers	6	-3	LLWLL

Strudal to join Luton on loan

MARK STRUDAL, 26, the Swedish centre forward who played against Arsenal in the European Cup Winners' Cup last season, will join Luton on loan today. He may step straight into the Endcliffe Insurance League first division team, taking the place of John Taylor, who needs a back operation and will be out for three months.

Taylor, signed from Bradford last season as a replacement for the Wales striker, John Harrison, who joined Arsenal for £2.5 million, goes into hospital this week but the Luton manager, Terry Westley, has already sounded out the possibility of recruiting Strudal from Denmark.

Strudal, who has been with five clubs in the past four years, is likely to join Luton on a similar basis to that of Marc Rieper, his former Bradford teammate, when he joined West Ham: an extended loan period. This will give Luton time to consider a permanent transfer for a sum expected to be around £500,000.

Stubbs pays for only error

Bolton Wanderers 0
Queens Park Rangers 1

By Ian Rodgers

THE poster hung just 50 yards from Burnden Park and the gist of it was that teams were to be "punished" for his suspension. The irony was not lost on Bolton Wanderers' supporters: Eric Cantona's re-appearance coincided with the return of their own miscreant.

Before this match, Alan Stubbs was "on trial". Fans screamed "hypo-crite" from their front covers and his name was jeered by a few supporters from the last remaining terrace in the FA Carling Premiership. But, after only ten minutes, the club captain was paroled when his 40-yard pass from defence allowed David Lee to run at goal. The subsequent chants of "Stubbs for England" became more vociferous as the game progressed.

"As I said originally, it was just the minority of fans," Stubbs said later. Bolton have conceded ten goals in his absence and, on Saturday, it was also Stubbs's forward-thinking attitude and constructive passing that created the home side's best chances.

Unfortunately for Bolton, though, it was the breakdown of a Stubbs-inspired attack

which permitted Trevor Sinclair the chance to cross for the Mark Hateley lookalike, Daniele Delfino, to score for Queens Park Rangers in the penultimate minute. Stubbs's only error had left him stranded as Bergesson and McAnaspie, a newcomer, were left to cope with the height of Delfino, who duly registered his fifth goal in four games.

"Super goalkeeping in anyone's language," Ray Wilkins, the Rangers manager, said. "Hardly a just reward for Bolton's territorial advantage? I wouldn't say we nicked it. We won it," Wilkins added. The claim was debatable.

Rangers had lacked imagination until their manager

came on as a substitute for Holloway, who was injured. For a man who described himself as an "old nag", Wilkins still displayed the progressive thought and touch of his early days at Chelsea. Yet, despite the endeavours of Sinclair and Delfino, this game should have been Bolton's second win of the season. However, the efforts of an almost nonchalant Stubbs were not equalled by others.

Roy McFarland's wholesale restructuring of the Bolton defence seemed to have paid off after the humiliation at Anfield the previous week, but it was in midfield and up front where Bolton's problems were most apparent. So far, their adaptation to the Premiership has lacked conviction and comparisons have already begun for McFarland.

"Swindon were the team two years ago who performed well and got nothing," the manager said. "We don't want to be in this position, contributing to the football without picking up the points. We can turn that corner, but when it's going to come, I can't tell you."

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Bergesson — S McAnaspie, G Bergesson, A Stubbs, J Price — D Lee, M Parkinson, R Sinclair, A Thompson — P De Freitas, J McFarland.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J Sommer, R Bennett, D Delfino, J McDonald, K Reddy — A Ince, J Holloway (sub R Wilkins, 60min), S Barker, S Osborn, T Sinclair, D Delfino.

Referee: J White.

Derby earn limited return

Derby County 2
Millwall 2

By Russell Kempson

MONEY can buy success, as Blackburn Rovers demonstrated last season. Yet it does not guarantee success, as Rovers have found out this season and as Derby County are continually discovering. Lionel Pickering, the Derby chairman, has laid out the best part of £12 million on his beloved County in recent years, yet this morning they lie twentieth out of 24 in the Endcliffe Insurance League first division.

It is a sad indictment of cheque-book largesse and a salutary lesson to those who enter football with money to burn but little clue of what, or who, to spend it on. Though Jack Walker reaped his reward at Blackburn, the likes of Sir Jack Hayward, at Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Pickering must wonder what they have got themselves into.

Derby's fortunes at least improved yesterday, only slightly, yet with a degree of honesty and endeavour that suggests that Jim Smith might be able to turn the perennial sow's ear into a silk purse.

Against Millwall, one of the most upwardly mobile sides in the first division, Derby dis-

played a rare vigour that deservedly earned a draw and saved them up the table. Twice they came from a goal down, showing resolve and no little ability as Millwall's title aspirations appeared bloated.

"Although I was reasonably satisfied with the performance, we didn't show enough consistent quality," Smith said. "Millwall are one of the leading teams in the division so we've got to be fairly happy with the draw."

It had begun bleakly for County, with Millwall's unbeaten away record clearly much more than simple statistics. The south London side were confident and vibrant, with Rae sliding home a low

30-yard shot, in only the sixth minute, after he had been cleverly set up by Van Blerk. Three minutes later, though, Derby were level. Flynn launched a high ball over the static Witter and Willem, a £300,000 close-season buy from Grasshoppers of Zurich, beat Keller comfortably for his first goal for the club.

Derby could have gone in front, as Preece and Van der Laan got the better of Rae and Bowry in midfield and Preece forced a good save from Keller. It was but an illusion of ascendancy, however, with Millwall soaking up the sporadic pressure and responding with another goal.

In the 25th minute, Fuchs fell over under the challenge of Rowett to earn a fortunate free kick. Black, making his debut on loan from Nottingham Forest, curled a delicate shot over the defensive wall and into the net.

A scrappy second half was at least enlivened by Derby's second equaliser, in the 65th minute as Van der Laan drove his shot past Keller.

DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2): S Sutton — J Kavanagh, D Yates, D Wessell (sub: P Tordella, 60min), G Powell — S Flynn, R van der Laan, D Preece, F Simpson (sub: D Wood, 67), D Powell, R Willem.

MILLWALL (4-4-2): K Keller — R Newman, A Witter, R Savers, B Thackley — J van Blerk, R Bowry, A Rae, K Black (sub: D Savage, 81) — C Mallon (sub: K Dixon, 79), U Fuchs.

Referee: K Lynch.



Rae scored for Millwall

Gradi's latest graduates look part

Keith Pike discovers

much to enjoy in a game among second division high-fliers

THERE are a couple of things about Crewe that are not so much predictable as warmly reassuring: the locomotives on the InterCity West coast line will thunder through the station — even some of those that are supposed to stop — and it will rain, which is probably why all the train-spotters wear anoraks. Neither British Rail nor Michael Fish disappointed on Saturday.

Nor did Crewe Alexandra. Just as inevitably, some of those passengers disembarking will turn left and left again into Gresty Road, where for 12 and a bit seasons now Dario Gradi has been turning out first-class teams on Super-Saver budgets and attracting talent-spotters like scouts to a bonfire.

The club that, under Gradi's guidance, has given David Platt, Rob Jones and Geoff Thomas to England (well, two out of three's not bad), and a couple of teams to the top division, is at it again. Before this Endcliffe Insurance League second division near-summit match, two youngsters, who had resisted overtures from bigger fish to join the renowned Cheshire football academy on associate schoolboy forms, were introduced by Gradi. During it, Gradi's simple philosophy — neat, accurate passing, with the emphasis on technique and control — was to the fore.

And afterwards? Gradi was disappointed, even though his team had twice come from behind to salvage a point in the 2-2 draw. "I thought we played all the football and created all the chances," he said, "but then these days every team seems to want to come here just to make life difficult for us."

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That assessment was a little tough on the team managed by Colin Murphy, the tenth manager to try his luck at Notts County in the time that Gradi has called the shots at Crewe. True, they could not match Crewe for elegance, but there are less attractive sides in the division, and with a forward the size of White to aim at, their long-ball tactics were understandable. The contrast made for an enjoyable match, and a fair result.

Of the four Gradi graduates in a team with an average age of 22, Gareth Whalley was the most influential and Danny Murphy, 18, the most precocious. Whalley, who at 19 was taking — and missing — penalties in play-off finals, is a stronger, more composed playmaker 2½ years later than the one who slumped inconspicuously onto the turf at Wembley, and the subject of much transfer speculation, although Gradi dismissed a report that he had rejected a £1.5 million bid for him from Blackburn Rovers. Crewe, at the moment, neither need nor want to sell.

Agana's impeccably timed volley and White's thunderous finish for County, answered in turn by Westwood's fortuitous header and Macauley's unstoppable one, should leave both teams in good heart for the resumption of Coca-Cola Cup battles this week. The future for football's lesser lights, both short and long-term, looks promising.

CREWE ALEXANDRA (3-1-4-3): M Gayle — S Macauley, A Westwood, M Bony — G Whalley — W Collins, N Lennon, D Murphy, S Gentry — R Edwards, R Savage.

NOTTS COUNTY (4-3-3): D Ward — T Gallagher, G Snodgrass, S Nicol (sub: A Lobb, 41min), R Walker — M Gallwey, S Murphy, M Simpson — J Atkins (sub: C Short, 79), A Agana — D White.

Referee: G Singh.

Robert Crampton meets a showman basking in the reflected limelight of his clients

The Other Eric jinks and feints on the sidelines

Eric Hall does a good impersonation of a larger-than-life character, but he does not quite bring it off. He tries very hard, he's got all the props — the cigars, the catchphrases, the rampant egomania — but there is something missing.

Meeting Eric brings to mind that old gag about someone being both good and original — but the parts that are good are not original, and the parts that are original are not good. He says, for instance, that he cannot watch rugby because he thinks they are all talking about him in the scrum. "One of my old lines," he says, and has a right old chuckle. No: it is not his line. He prefaces an anecdote by saying: "Well, to make a short story long" — and that may well be one of his old lines, as he claims, but it isn't funny.

Eric, 58, has been a football agent for eight or nine years now — "I'm still a baby!" Before football, he was a promotions man in the music business for more than 30 years, working with Queen, Marc Bolan, Paul McCartney and, er, Pilot. "January, February," he sings. "Love that song!" He is still an old plugger at heart, and he has now plugged and hyped and hustled and puffed himself into the celebrity charts. He will never be in the top ten, but he makes a reliably, if only moderately, entertaining noise.

Eric, football followers will be surprised to learn, is not happy with the European Court of Justice's preliminary ruling on the Jean-Marc Bosman case. "I'm not happy, no," Hall said, pausing for effect. "I am monster, monster, elated!" Eric, agent to some 35 professional footballers, has every right to be pleased by Carl Otto Lenz's opinion that the game's transfer system is contrary to the laws of the European Union.

Eric picks up speed. He talks so fast that you have to fill in some bits for yourself. "When it expires [a footballer's contract] it expires. What about the small clubs? They have to back their judgments. If [a footballer] is a bit like a pint of milk in a supermarket when it reaches its sell-by date. If they [the supermarket owner, and, by analogy, a football club] don't sell it [the milk, footballer] by a certain date, they can't sell it anymore! Same with football. Don't want to follow this too much because they [footballers] are people [not pints of milk]!" Probably wise that, Eric. When the finding was first announced, Eric's response was to talk in terms of television sets. Now footballers are pints of milk. Another week, another interview, and one won-



Hall's practised flamboyance, complete with cigar and catchphrase, is reminiscent of his heroes — the movie producers of old. 'A deal's a deal. A star is a star!' Photograph: James Morgan

ders how low down Hall's retail chain the players will have slipped: packet of Rizla papers? Quarter of jelly babies?

So how will the ruling, if upheld by the full court, affect your business, Eric? "Ain't going to affect it too much," he said. Then, a moment later, "It will help me tremendously." He has been accused, I say, of sometimes unsettling players in order to increase his own commission. Now that players will have freedom to switch clubs... "If I'm unsettling players then I'm doing a hell of a bad job," he

said. "I'll pick any player out of the hat. Dennis Wise, Wimbledon. Contract run out. Chelsea. Still there. Tim Sherwood. Watford. Norwich. Blackburn, just done a new deal there. Most of my players aren't jumping around." OK, if he does not deliberately unsettle them, then why doesn't he? He does not owe football anything, his job is to make money for his client and himself? "The player is probably negotiating anyway if the manager and chairman have half a brain. A group have one or two hits, you renegotiate. Same

with football." Eric gets his commission whether his client is signing a new deal with the same club or a new one. "I heard a chairman moaning: 'We pay them wages, we pay them a signing-on fee, end of it all we don't get a penny.' Well that's showbusiness!" Aside from handling negotiations (he is at present talking to Roy Evans — "we're mates! well, not mates" — about Neil Ruddock's terms), Eric had a relatively quiet showbusiness summer. He stayed aloof from the £80 million transfer frenzy, "apart from one monster

deal, which I set up, but I can't talk about". Turns out that Eric was not hankering after the foreign action anyway. "My strength is domestic football, to be honest with you. Robert I do attract a certain type of player. Wisey, Ruddock, Scalesy, Holdsworth. Similar type. I don't think I'll ever be a Gary Mabbutt-type agent, or Gary Lineker, or David Platt. I don't attract Peter Perfects, and I don't want to. I don't want also a mad guy. I don't want a Vinny Jones maybe. God forbid. I'm not knocking Vinny. I love Vinny! Love him!"

Is selling footballers like selling records? "Yeah, I'm a good salesman. I'm not a businessman, I'm just an East End Jewish hustler. I'm fearless. Kenny Dalglish. Frank Sinatra. Nobody frightens me, business-wise. Ken Bates said: 'Eric Hall is a deal-maker, not a deal-breaker.' I compromise, put that there, here, find a little schtick. These licences [Fifa has proposed that football agents should register and abide by a code of practice], I think I will go for one. I'll play the game, see what happens, I've broken no rules."

Eric went on: "People say I don't like football. As a kid, I was dragged along, it wasn't my scene. But I do like football. I like before the game, ducking and diving, hustling and schmussing. Half-time. Afterwards, go and see the lads, get a phone number. I love a phone number! My heroes were the old movie producers. Louis Mayer! Jack Warner! Bald head. Cigar. Lew Grade: I worked with him for many years. A deal's a deal. A star is a star!" And now Eric himself is a star. Sort of.

Gough sets the stage for Gascoigne magic

The best teams are awkward as well as slick. It was Rangers' disobedient, intransigent trait that underpinned the 2-0 victory at Celtic Park on Saturday, even if Paul Gascoigne did introduce a sliver of exuberance by scoring the game's second goal. In the early exchanges especially, though, Rangers stamped out fun with puritanical zeal.

To the joy of their supporters, Celtic, before the interval, darted, twisted, manoeuvred and generally cavorted, but their frolics were prohibited in the one area of the field that mattered, the visitors' penalty area. Of late, Rangers have made some vivacious signings, including Gascoigne, but true progress may lie with the unforgiving defence that Walter Smith, the manager, has constructed. Celtic spent a futile afternoon trying to scale the crags of the Ibrox side's three centre back system, suffering one painful fall after another. Two members of it, Alan McLaren and Gordon Pettie, are comparatively recent signings, and they have served to revitalise the career of the man they flank. Richard Gough, the captain, is once more lionised by supporters who were scowling at him a year ago.

Last season, he was asked to

defend beside the erratic and impulsive Bastie Boli. Gough was left as the innocent bystander while fully broke out around him. With the Frenchman gone to AS Monaco, he has more congenial partners. The bond with Pettie is particularly strong and Gough calls him "Perry Como", reckoning that in the midst of a match the Serbian is as unruffled as the old crooner.

With the form of the Rang-

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

ers captain back in tune, a tired old controversy is also in danger of being revived. When the Scotland squad for the international in Sweden on October 11 is named by the national team manager, Craig Brown, tomorrow, Gough will again be excluded. He has not been capped since condemning both Brown and the Scotland coach of the time, Andy Roxburgh, in 1993.



Gascoigne celebrates after scoring Rangers' second goal

Brown, though he makes few public comments on the matter, continues to shun the idea of reconciliation. It is his right as manager to decide which offences are beyond forgiveness and the excellence of the Scotland defence, without Gough, has removed any temptation towards clemency. However, at 33, it may be that the Rangers player feels no great craving to return to international football, where 61 caps already testify to his talent.

There is much, after all, to occupy him with Rangers. "Don't get sent off," he told Gascoigne at half-time on Saturday. In delivering such advice the captain risked being accused of stating the obvious, but there are people who sometimes need to hear it. Gough had picked the right man. Gascoigne had been booked and a grouchy referee — John Rowbottom might have shown him the red card before the interval.

Soon after receiving the caution he raised an arm and caught John Collins on the head. With time, and Gough's warning, the rashness passed, and, having won the quarrel with his temperament, Gascoigne went on to ensure that Rangers got the better of Celtic. After 58 minutes, he dashed 80 yards from one penalty area to the other to be in position for Ally McCoist's through-ball and stroke home his shot.

The Ibrox side's first goal, a minute before the break, came when Rangers exploited Celtic's susceptibility in the right-back area, just as they had done in the Coca-Cola Cup tie 11 days before. Alex Cleland stole into the space and angled a header from Oleg Salenko's cross past Gordon Marshall.

Celtic supporters were subject to the sort of bitterness known to men who have lately been gripped by strong optimism. With its magnificent new stand, sound finances, substantial investment in the team and improved performances, the club has made great progress since a new regime took over 19 months ago, but all of that counts for little when an Old Firm match has been lost.

Maradona inspires victory on his return

DIEGO MARADONA, playing his first match after a 15-month ban, helped an Argentine side, Boca Juniors, to a 2-1 victory over South Korea's national team at the Chamsil Stadium in Seoul on Saturday.

Maradona was much in evidence in the first half but, looking visibly tired, he was substituted shortly before the end. Maradona, 35 next month, was banned by Fifa, the world governing body, after failing a doping test during last year's World Cup finals in the United States. The ban expired on Friday.

There was little sign of Saturday of the pace and acceleration with which Maradona inspired Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup, but it was from his corner in the 42nd minute that Carlos MacAllister headed the opening goal. The South Korea team delighted the 70,000 crowd when the forward, Ha Seok-jin, equalised with a header just before half-time.

Maradona set up several chances in the second half but they were blocked by the goalkeeper, Kim Byung-gee. When Maradona left the field the score was still level, but a minute before the final whistle the forward, Sergio Martinez, 30 yards out, chipped over Byung-gee.

The visiting Argentine President, Carlos Menem, an avid supporter, and South Korea's President, Kim Young-sam, both watched the match, which was staged to promote South Korea's bid to host the World Cup finals. South Korea and Japan are in competition to host the World Cup in 2002.

"I am glad I did not disappoint my fans," Maradona said after the match and described his display as "most satisfactory". He added that he intended "to play as long as I can" but appears to have acknowledged that an active role in the next World Cup in 1998 is beyond him. "I will put the World Cup in the hands of newly-rising youths," he said.

Horse of the Year Show lacks appeal to those outside stable

Remodelled rocking-horse fails test

By DAVID POWELL

MY EYES said Wembley's twin towers, my nose disagreed, but the smell of the country, even in urban Middlesex, was unmistakable. I was not, I confess, as thrilled to be heading for the Horse of the Year Show as I am when I go to Wembley for football, yet, to a vegetarian, the odour of live animals down Wembley Way was infinitely preferable to the stench of beefburgers before a game.

I was here to see whether an old rocking-horse could be brought to life. For that is what the Horse of the Year Show had become. Big attendances and BBC Television coverage had given way to considerable financial losses. Changes were promised. "Our aim is to provide family entertainment which will appeal to non-horse people as well as the show's regulars," the promoter was quoted as saying.

Out of the non-horse stable I came to test the success of this new venture. Eventually, I found my way in, but it was more complicated than it should have been. It was as if the course designer had said: "Let's set one outside for the novice spectators". Neither when looking by telephone, nor during my approach to Wembley Arena, was there any indication that the arena box office was not the place to collect my ticket. Already I had scored faults for a refusal. I was sent to another box office in another building. Safety

over this time. Once inside I purchased a programme, which broke the disconcerting news that this was Ladies' Day. Soon, though, I spied men in sufficient numbers to reassure me that this applied probably to competitors rather than spectators. On the schedule for this first afternoon of the five-day show was a musical drive of heavy horses, the Devil's Horsemen stunt team, and the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery musical drive.

Before taking my seat I visited the trade show where I saw something guaranteed to set my pulse racing, something definitely non-horse. I wanted to try it, just in case I was left unable to share in the "new enthusiasm and excitement for equestrianism" which the programme message hoped all first-timers would feel.

In among the designer

browbands, the herbal remedies for horses, and the microchip implants for "indisputable proof of ownership", I had found an experience simulator. Choose, the posters said, from sking the 1994 Olympic downhill course, the Yamaha Experience, or the Roller Coaster Spectacular. "One for the Downhill Racer, please." Another refusal. "We're not doing that at the moment." Motor rallying only was available. I decided to go for lunch instead.

The musical drive of heavy horses (shire, not overweight) was followed by the stunt riding team. The speed of the action, the dexterity of the performers, was entertaining indeed, and, as these men performed their balancing tricks, I remembered the Lone Ranger. They could have taught him a thing or two about how to hang on to a horse.

One striking recollection is

how many people climb sideways over seats to get to their row, rather than walk up the steps and along, as if taking imaginary steps onto horseback. Doing the real thing were the competitors in the Christy championship for leading junior show jumper of the year. I followed closely as 38 horses and riders mostly failed to achieve clear rounds.

Only two succeeded, resulting in a jump-off. Sally-Anne How, on Current Ruelle, went clear, but Richard Davenport, on Edenside Asha, failed at the second fence, and attention turned to Foxlynch Little John. Foxlynch Little John, the commentary said, was 29, appeared on the circuit 30 years ago, and was retiring. If I understood the story correctly, when his former owner went to buy him back he crashed into an unmarked police car and wrote off his Porsche. "Obviously someone with money," the commentator said. Probably thinks £23 for an average price ticket to the Horse of the Year Show is cheap.

It is not, but nor is the cost of putting on a show such as this. You have to like horses, though. There is no getting away from it. It was colourful, admirable, competitive, musical, well put together and the information on rules and scoring was plentiful. But would a non-footy person go back to the Cup Final year after year? Personally, I would rather be near a penalty box than a horse box.

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Villa rise to challenge from Arsenal

By SARAH FORDE

ARSENAL, Premier League champions of women's football, suffered their second defeat of the season yesterday, going down 3-1 away to newly-promoted Villa Azules. Lorraine Robinson and Jane Hurley put Villa two up by half-time but Sammy Britton got one back for Arsenal early in the second half, triggering a period of sustained pressure before Natalie Masters made the game safe for Villa.

Croydon continue to set the pace after an emphatic 6-1 win over Ilkeston Town Rangers, taking their goal tally to 21 from four games. It was 1-1 at half-time but Croydon scored three goals in the first 15 minutes of the second period. Hope Powell and Tara Proctor both scored twice for Croydon, who are above Doncaster Belles on goal difference.

The Belles had a difficult match at Everton but goals just before and immediately after the interval gave them a

2-0 victory. Everton, still without a win this season, dominated the first half during which "they played the Belles off the park" according to their assistant manager, Keith Marley.

Both Doncaster goals came from set pieces — Vicky Exley scoring after a corner and the captain, Gillian Coulard, scoring from a free kick.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, who have yet to score a point, lost 3-0 at home to Millwall Lionesses. The turn-

ing-point came when Lianne Denley, the Wolverhampton goalkeeper, dislocated a finger and was replaced by a defender, Donna Manning.

Tina Lindsey then gave Millwall the lead which was extended by a substitute, Tracey Wright, and Rebecca Longman, a new signing from Arsenal.

Liverpool recorded their third consecutive 1-0 win at Wembley in a match settled by an own goal by Lynn Frampton in the first half.

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John Goodbody reports on the martial arts sport which trains people how not to injure their opponents

SPORT
FOR
ALL

The art of pulling punches

Right from the first lesson, karate teaches the importance of avoiding violence



Although karate looks dangerous, aggressive instincts in people are sublimated rather than encouraged by disciplined exercise



Like other Japanese martial arts, karate has a grading system shown by coloured belts, from beginners white up to black

Karate, which means empty hands, is a paradoxical sport. Its destructive array of kicks and blows appear to make this Japanese martial art the province of the intimidator — the sort of person it would be good to have watching your back in a pub fight.

However, karate actually emphasises placidity of temperament. Right from the start, karate teaches the importance of avoiding violence. Its set forms (kata) are a series of stylised movements, like a soldier's drill, which always begin with defence.

The theory of all combat sports is that any aggressive instincts are sublimated, rather than encouraged, by the unceasing and disciplined exercise. In short, a punch-up in a training hall means no punch-up in the pub. John Whiteman, a property developer who practises karate at The Budokwai club, in London — which is Europe's oldest martial arts club — says: "Before I began training, I used to get upset when driving but now I cannot be bothered."

Thirty years ago, the first instructors from the Japan Karate Association arrived in Britain, like messiahs, to begin creating the boom in the sport. There are now probably 100,000 people in Britain practising one or other of the numerous styles of karate.

Some schools put emphasis on speed. Others concentrate on strength. Oyama, who fought bulls bare-handed, or Yamaguchi, who flourished by sizing underneath waterfalls, were both inventors of their own styles of karate.

Shotokan is the largest school, with its emphasis on precision and exact technique but often the techniques of kicking, punching and striking differ only slightly. Like other Japanese martial arts, karate has a grading system, shown by the different colours of the belts worn. Gradings are based on an assessment of technique and fighting spirit.

To graduate from the beginner white belt to



The sport's set forms (kata) are a series of stylised movements, like a soldier's drill

the advanced proficiency black belt, will take about three years. If the pupil is reasonably athletic and trains three or four times a week. During training, a karateka (a person who practises karate) endlessly practises his or her moves, making sure they focus the punch or kick. The force comes from tensing the entire body, particularly the stomach, as the blow is struck, or rather not struck, for participants are not allowed to actually land blows on unprotected opponents. Otherwise, there would not be many of them.

All blows are pulled. In competition, fighters have to pierce their opponents' guards in order to demonstrate to watching officials the validity of the technique. If competitors are ruled to have failed to

control their blows by hitting an opponent, they may be disqualified. Sometimes, a competitor is declared the winner, even if in no physical condition to continue.

Controversy is constant when rival styles meet in open combat. In one notorious bout in the 1975 world championships, Dominique Valera, a Frenchman and the finest fighter of his era, was so upset with a series of decisions that he attacked three British officials. He was finally led from the arena at gunpoint by police — given his physical ability this was a necessary precaution — and was banned from competition for life.

Many people starting karate are not interested in competition. Kevin Healy, chief instructor at The Budokwai and a former member of the national team, believes that 90 per cent of beginners are motivated by self-defence. He emphasises the martial side of karate. "To punch or kick properly can take years."

Karate has become increasingly popular with women and children. Rebecca Mellotte, who trains at the Budokwai, is not unique in being a black belt at both judo and karate but is unusual in practising both simultaneously. She finds the flexibility needed for karate useful for judo. Before she began training she was a nun. "I do not think my order could cope with me," she says.

Mr Whiteman is amazed at how supple he has become. "When I started I was very inflexible. Now I can control a head-high kick," he says. Both agree that karate is an excellent form of self-defence, although much of its value comes from becoming more alert and confident. Ms Mellotte says: "Most people who get attacked in the street are vulnerable people."

Training does not stop as a karateka gets older, because the purpose of martial arts is to create a challenge, a constant struggle. As a Japanese instructor put it: "There is no end to training. Once you begin to think you are a master, you are no longer on the path you are to follow."

KARATE FACT FILE

● To find out details about your nearest karate club, telephone or write to the headquarters of the Karate Union of Great Britain, 10, Munsters Rd., West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7PL (tel: 0115-9820757). There are 450 clubs throughout Britain which are affiliated to the KUGB. A new members licence costs £16 for a senior and £14 for a junior licence.

The cost of a training session varies according to the club. The Budokwai club, 4 Gilston Road, Chelsea, London, SW10 9SL (tel: 0171-370-1000), charges £45 for annual senior membership and £35 for children under 12, then £3 for each session. Senior classes are held five days a week.

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Sheffield showman steps up a gear to relieve Robinson of world featherweight title

Hamed goes from strength to strength

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

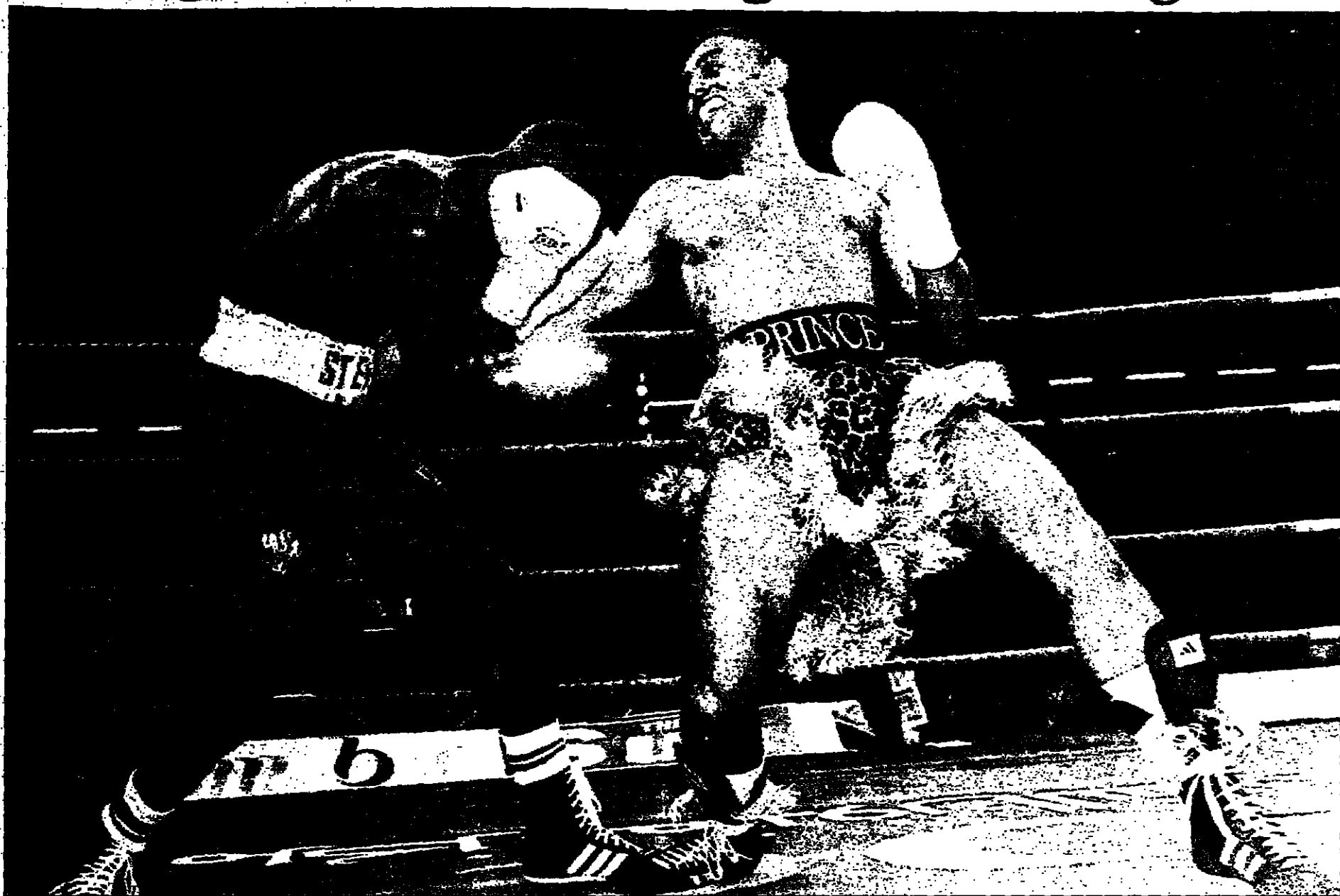
NASEEM HAMED raised the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight championship to world-class status on Saturday when he relieved Steve Robinson, of Wales, of the title in Cardiff. By demolishing the champion in eight one-sided rounds, Hamed joined a select WBO group of three boxers regarded as the best in their divisions in the world: Riddick Bowe (heavyweight), Oscar De La Hoya (super-featherweight) and Marco Antonio Barrera (super-bantamweight).

John Montano, the chairman of the WBO championship committee, said that Hamed could, before long, stand alongside these three. "Naseem is fast, going to become one of the best fighters in the world bar none," Montano said. "He's an extraordinary fighter. He can be as good as he wants to be and he can go as far as he wants to. As far as him climbing up different divisions is concerned, if you can't hit him, you can't beat him. Simple as that. In boxing, you've got to learn to punch. You can't land punches on him. The bigger the opponent is, the harder it is going to be to land on Naseem. The reflexes are quicker in the lower divisions, so he'll have an advantage."

Hamed said he believed that he could win titles at four heavier divisions up to welterweight. "My legs are very strong. Billy Scherer [the lightweight Commonwealth champion] will probably be looking at the fight and be saying, 'I hope he's not coming my way'. I'll Billy he's all right. I'm not coming up just yet," Hamed said.

Certainly, on this showing, it seems that there are not too many heavier men within those divisions on this side of the Atlantic to cause Hamed serious problems. But neither Hamed nor his promoter, Frank Warren, have any plans to move the super-bantamweight up yet again.

Warren said that Hamed would box again in December, in Sheffield or London, and he is in the middle of negotiations for a bout with a foreign opponent. An announcement is expected next week. Hamed could move down and challenge for a super-bantamweight title, but he is more likely to make a couple of voluntary defenses at featherweight before moving to any other division.



Robinson attempts to cover up as Hamed lands a blow to the body during their WBO featherweight title bout in Cardiff on Saturday. Photograph: Sean Dempsey

This was Hamed's best performance so far and a moment of triumph for his trainer and manager, Brendan Ingle, who always wanted a world champion and suffered bitter disappointments twice after coming close with Herol Graham, against Mike McCallum and Julian Jackson.

As Robinson was bigger and stronger than Hamed's other opponents, and was determined to put up a good show in front of his own crowd of some 15,000, Hamed had to work harder than before and use a wide range of punches to set Robinson up for the finish. It was quite unlike his bout with Vincenzo Belcastro for the European title, which was an untidy wrestling and hit-and-run affair.

While the many ringsters at Cardiff Arms Park objected to Hamed's showboating, taunting and talking during the bout, I did not find the challenger's antics offensive. They are an essential part of his technique.

He carried the fight to Robinson. At first the Welshman, fighting out of a crouch and tight defence, was successful in drawing Hamed onto right counters, the textbook response to southpaws. But, after taking a couple of stinging blows, Hamed boxed from a distance and gradually broke down Robinson's resistance until a combination of blows dropped the Welshman to the floor in the fifth round.

It was Robinson's first visit to the canvas since Tim

Driscoll put him there five years ago. He looked in bad shape getting up but, by retiring behind his gloves, he managed to survive. However, from this point, a fearful onslaught from Hamed began.

For a little over two years, Robinson had campaigned successfully within his limitations, making a tidy living out of boxing specially-picked opponents. Now, however, he found himself out of his depth. As Robinson's defence became flabbier and flabbier, the man from Sheffield moved in and unleashed punches from every angle.

Still Robinson did not fall. Then, in the eighth round, Hamed jabbed twice, then switched to orthodox and sent

in a perfect left-hook that dropped Robinson on one knee. He got up gamely but the referee, Ismael Fernandez, had already seen enough and decided to call a halt.

Immediately, Hamed went over to the other side and extended his hand of friendship to the defeated champion and walked him round the ring. Suitably dignified in victory, the new champion said: "I said four rounds. But I could not stop him. He was strong. He took some great shots."

"The crowd wasn't on my mind at all. I enjoy my music, and you enjoyed Steve's music. I feel very strong at featherweight. Now I am off to Jamaica and Barbados to chill out and then I'll hit Miami."

Jones throws down challenge to Benn

ROY JONES Jr says he is willing to fight Nigel Benn, the World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion. Jones issued the challenge after retaining his International Boxing Federation world super-middleweight title in his home town of Pensacola, Florida, on Saturday.

Jones, 26, who stopped his fellow American, Tony Thornton, in the third round, said: "I'll fight Benn for \$10 million. He is not even close to the \$50 million Don King was shooting his big

mouth about a while back." Jones, who appears to have no competitors left in his weight class with the exception of the Englishman, Benn, 31, was in dominant form.

Thornton survived a second-round knock-down but was left defenceless after a barrage of punches from Jones, who won the title almost a year ago from James Toney, and the referee was forced to stop the contest.

Thornton, 36, went the distance in an unsuccessful world title contest with Chris Eubank.

Bronze for Rendle but British team fail to impress

By JOHN GOODBODY

SHARON RENDLE, the ever-consistent bantamweight, won Great Britain's only medal at the world judo championships, which ended in Makuhari, Japan, yesterday. That several of the team had qualified for the Olympics by reaching the last eight in their disciplines could not disguise the worst British team performance since the men's and women's events were first held simultaneously in 1987.

The British squad has always roused itself for the Olympics in the past, and the pile of medals won at the 1994 and 1995 European championships suggests that there is sufficient talent to do the same in Atlanta next year. However, the new strength in the Chinese, South Korean and Cuban teams has eroded Britain's reputation in the women's categories.

The defeat of Nicola Fairbrother, the defending lightweight champion, was particularly galling. She was first beaten by Sun-Young Cho, of South Korea, and then unhelpfully lost in the repechage to Zoufira Garipova, of Russia. As she fell backwards onto the mat to try a "sacrifice" technique, the Russian grabbed her legs. Although Fairbrother spun her opponent onto her back, the referee, after consulting with the mat-side officials, ruled that the Russian had scored first.

Rendle, who won bronze on Saturday, is under pressure from Debbie Allan for a place in the team for Atlanta. However, nobody can argue with her consistency this year: third in the Tournoi de Paris, third in the European championships, third in the United States Open and now third at the world championships.

Rendle said: "I had a really good day, although I was disappointed to lose the split decision to the Cuban. The Chinese girl in the fight for the bronze medal was physically strong and had done her homework. She was grabbing at my fingers and I just tried not to panic." Eventually Jin Wang stepped out of the fighting area and was duly penalised.

Rendle will be 30 next year but said: "I still have a bee in my bonnet about the Olympics. I am going to win and then live happily ever after."

Rugby union throws door open to league players

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

A FREE gateway was created yesterday between the two rugby codes, union and league, ending a century of enmity. However, rugby union's new permissive regulations may still require the force of civil law before England, for one, accepts them in their entirety.

When the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) concluded its council meeting in Tokyo on Saturday, putting in place rules for participation in the newly opened sport, it decided that no cooling off period was viable in respect of league players seeking to play union. However, England and Australia, the countries to whom this applies most significantly, may yet retain some restrictive legislation.

"If any union feels the need to protect its game, and can achieve that under contract, they have the opportunity to do so," Vernon Pugh, the Welshman whose paper on amateurism earlier this year led to rugby union's walls

coming down, said. "I would have thought the decision will concern rugby league more than union and I would be surprised if Wales decided upon any restriction."

After a week when Joost van der Westhuizen, the South Africa scrum half, has turned down an offer of a three-year contract worth around £2 million to play rugby league for Sydney Bulldogs, Pugh's point has an obvious validity in the southern hemisphere. However, England favour a period of re-qualification, which may be difficult to justify in court.

"We have varying points of view, but rugby union officials in Cumbria, Yorkshire and Lancashire feel very strongly about the effects of player-loss to rugby league," Bill Bishop, the Rugby Football Union president, said. Yet he admitted that his union would probably lose a test case and that rules for players moving between clubs would also need serious revision.

Of greater concern to the IRFB was the movement of players between countries. The eligibility rules have been tightened to ensure that the less wealthy countries, such as the Pacific islands, do not lose a significant number of players, and the board meeting in London next January will consider tightening them even further. The position will be controlled by player contracts, with national unions having first call ahead of clubs or provinces.

The board has set its face against the 12-month player, one who moves from one hemisphere to another, by demanding both a residential qualification and availability throughout any union's complete domestic season.

All regulations for the running of the game come into force immediately and leaves control firmly in the hands of individual unions, who can maintain a hard line if they wish — and if the civil laws permit them to do so.

Sri Lanka on level terms with Pakistan

SRI Lanka dealt another blow to Pakistan's cricketing pride with a 40-run victory in the second one-day international in Faisalabad yesterday to square the three-match series.

Put in to bat after the Pakistan skipper, Ramiz Raja, had again won the toss, Sri Lanka piled up a formidable 257 for seven, with half-centuries coming from Jayasuriya and Gurusinha and a lively 47 from Aravinda de Silva.

By restricting Pakistan to 208 for eight in their 50 overs, Sri Lanka registered their 11th win in 51 one-day internationals between the sides. The decisive game in the series will be played at Rawalpindi tomorrow.

Salim Elahi, a century-maker in Pakistan's win in the first match in Gujranwala, was again their top scorer, hitting six boundaries in his 47 made from 61 balls. Pakistan needed 96 runs from the last ten overs but managed only 47 against tight bowling, especially from the spinners, Jayasuriya and de Silva.

SRI LANKA		
R S Mahanama	bat	30
S T Jayasuriya	c Asif b Rehman	51
A P de Silva	c Moin b Ashraf	88
A P de Silva	not out	47
A Ranasinghe	b Akram	15
H P Takkar	b Akram	14
R K Mahanama	not out	11
W P U C Dias	not out	0
Extras (lb 14, w 5, nb 0)		22
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)		257
Pakistan		
G P Widanaratne	not out	22
M Moin	not out	1
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-75, 2-100, 3-208, 4-222, 5-232, 6-255, 7-255.		
BOWLING: Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2.		

PAKISTAN		
Asif	bat	5
Moin	c Moin b Vase	9
Ramiz Raja	c Jayasuriya	47
R K Mahanama	b Dharmasena	33
Extras (lb 14, w 5, nb 0)		22
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)		208
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-85, 3-92, 4-116, 5-164, 6-182, 7-185, 8-200.		
BOWLING: Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2; Asif, 10-0-52-2.		

Obree prepared for challenge

By PETER BRYAN

GRAEME OBREE, Great Britain's new world 4,000 metres cycling pursuit champion, said goodbye to test of his track colleagues in Bogota, Colombia, yesterday. They were returning home from the world championships in which the Scot, 30, was the team's only gold medal-winner.

Obree and Yvonne McGregor, the world one-hour record-holder, who was eliminated in the quarter-finals of the women's 3,000 metres pursuit, were moving on to nearby Paipa for the road time-trials on Wednesday.

While the scarcity of medals when track competition finished on Saturday was disappointing, the team's performance at least guaran-

teed Britain places in four Olympic events at Atlanta next year for which the world championships was the qualifying test.

The closing session of the track series on Saturday produced another world record when Rebecca Twigg, of the United States, who won her first world pursuit title at Leicester in 1992, won the final with a world best of 3min 36.06sec.

It was the sixth time that Twigg, 32, had taken the title and a tribute to the courage of the American, who was competing with a broken collarbone suffered in a training accident 11 days previously.

against Curt Harnett, of Canada, with a tactical flair that his opponent could not match.

Geoff Platts, the national veteran road-race champion, yesterday won the North Road CC 50-mile century event marking Britain's first triennial promoted by the club. The event drew the country's top specialists against the clock, including many former champions.

The 1895 event was won by George Milnes in 2hr 54min 26sec. Platts recorded 1hr 49min 21sec to beat Peter Longbottom (1hr 50min 55sec) and Britain's all-round champion, Gethin Butler (1hr 50min 55sec).

Richard Prebble, triple national champion at tri, 25 and 50 miles, had a puncture in the first two miles and retired.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Henry Mansell and Tim Cope are South Africa's leading pair, that country winning the Open and the women's event at the Afro/Asia Zonal tournament last April. Mansell's mother Petra was in the women's team and both will represent South Africa in the world championships. This was Henry in action in the trials:

Dealer West		North South game		IMP's	
		♠ AQ65	♥ 10 8 5 5	♦ 10 8 5 5	♣ 10 8 5 5
		♠ A87	♥ KQJ2	♦ KQJ2	♣ KQJ2
		♠ Q4	♥ 753	♦ 753	♣ 753
		♠ 10 2	♥ 4	♦ 4	♣ 4
		♠ KQJ10 8 2	♥ 9 6 2	♦ 9 6 2	♣ 9 6 2
		♠ J 9 6 2	♥ A K 8 7 3	♦ A K 8 7 3	♣ A K 8 7 3
		♠ A K 10 8	♥ A K 10 8	♦ A K 10 8	♣ A K 10 8
		♠ 2 (1)	♥ Cope	♠ 5 (2)	♥ Mansell
		♠ Pass	♥ 6 (4)	♠ Pass	♥ Double (3)
		♠ All Pass		♠ All Pass	

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: Four of hearts

(1) Weak Two bid, showing six (occasionally five) diamonds and 6-10 points. (2) It is often effective to preempt at this vulnerability. (3) Take out. (4) Unwise — he has no guarantee that there will be a good slam. Despite the vulnerability, with his defensive shape he should pass. Five diamonds doubled goes five off for 1100 to North South.

When West led a heart it looked to Mansell as though it was a singleton. He won the heart, crossed to the queen of spades and ruffed a diamond. When West followed to a second trump his probable shape was 2-1-6-4, so after taking the ace of diamonds and ruffing dummy's last diamond, Mansell played off his clubs. He discarded a heart from dummy on the third round of clubs and, when on the fourth round of clubs West played the jack, dis-

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- GALLOWGLASS
a. An Irish soldier
b. Viewpoint for a hanging
c. Patron Saint of Glasgow
- GORGET
a. Predigested food
b. A petite beauty
c. Throat armour
- MAIN GAUCHE
a. A bad throw at dice
b. French sailor's larboard
c. A left-handed dagger
- CULVERIN
a. A canon
b. A road drain
c. Speedwell

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Anand escapes

Visly Anand, the Indian challenger, restored his morale with a draw in game 12 of the final world championship in New York. Having gone down to defeat in both games ten and 11, it was essential for Anand to avoid loss in the next encounter. A third setback would have annihilated his chances, both on the scoreboard and psychologically.

Once again Kasparov employed the Ruy Lopez opening, inviting repetition of the line which had brought him such a brilliant victory in game ten. Anand, wisely, avoided the main highways of theory and, employing a little known variation, reached a roughly level endgame. This was a position that would have raised no eyebrows at all had a draw been agreed. Sensing, though, that the match initiative now lay with him, Kasparov probed mercilessly and slight inaccuracies by Anand on moves 22 and 23 gave Kasparov real chances. However, on the 31st move Kasparov missed his opportunity to score a hat-trick. He should have played 31 h-g4. There was a brief flurry of activity, with brilliant defence by Anand, matched by equally ingenious winning attempts on the part of Kasparov. In the final position, however, in spite of an extra pawn, White had no serious winning prospect.

White Garry Kasparov
Black Viswanathan Anand
Final World Championship, Game 12, 1995

Ray Lopez		
1 e4	a5	
2 Nf3	Nc6	
3 Bb5	a6	

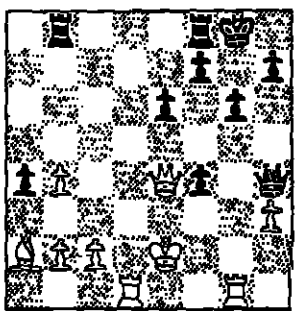
Match Score		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Kasparov		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Anand		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

With the world championship match in progress in New York, this week I concentrate on previous world championship matches. This is a variation from the game Short - Kasparov, Times World Championship 1993. Can you spot the clever combination that Black had in mind here in order to pursue his queenside initiative?

Solution on page 45



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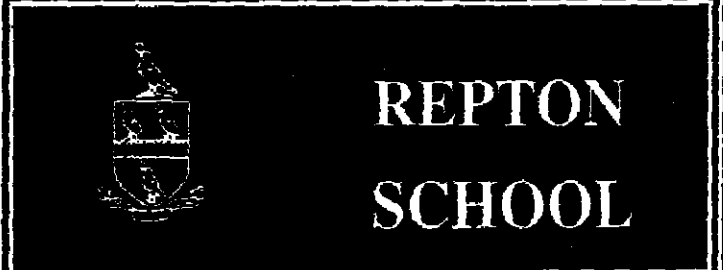
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INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

John O'Leary reports on the scandals which dog next week's Headmasters' Conference

Nowhere to hide the skeletons

When the Headmasters' Conference meets in Dublin next week, the atmosphere may be subtly different from previous years. As leaders of many of the top schools in Britain, HMC members are used to occupying the educational and moral high ground. This time, however, they are likely to be on the defensive.

An avalanche of publicity over two cases unrelated to the business of education in independent schools has shaken the sector and tarnished its image. And no matter how loudly headmasters may proclaim that there is no cause for concern, the fact is that their first priority must be to restore public confidence.

The schools were unlucky in that the suspension of Anthony Verity as Master of Dulwich College, and the resignation of Peter Hobson as Headmaster of Charterhouse, came on consecutive days immediately before the start of the school year. Mr Verity is still contesting allegations of sexual harassment, while Mr Hobson has gone to ground since newspaper revelations about his meetings with an escort girl.

But the incidents were 'highly damaging to a group that presumed to lead a moral crusade only a year ago. Even an equal measure of positive publicity surrounding the arrival of Prince William at Eton could not erase the memory entirely.

There is no evidence of parents withdrawing their children from HMC schools, but the headmasters will be acutely aware of the need to reassure potential customers. In Dublin, they will try to refocus attention on educational issues and remind the public of the quality of independent schools.

However, that may be easier said than done. Although there is no shortage of important issues to be discussed, the one that is likely to command most attention is another that the headmasters might prefer to avoid. The growing problem of drugs, which affects both state and independent schools, has attracted many more unwelcome column inches, and will be high on the agenda next week.

Eton, Millfield, Pangbourne, Uppingham, Wellington and Westminster have all expelled or suspended pupils for drug offences since the turn of the year. But there is a strong lobby for using expulsion only as a last resort. The debate on the right



Hugh Wright, Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, and conference chairman, will steer the debate on to educational issues

approach will be both tense and closely observed.

Dr John Rae, the former Head Master of Westminster School, says: "The effect of incidents like these are normally short-lived, but the schools will have to get used to living in the spotlight. Public schools have always had skeletons in the cupboard, but they were expert at keeping them hidden. Nowadays the press finds them so quickly that they never get to be skeletons. Headmasters are regarded as fair game, like bishops or deans, because people are fascinated by the closed society and slightly potpourri figures."

The headmasters could be forgiven for thinking that they cannot win, but they do have a success story to tell.

This summer's A-level results were another vintage crop, while the improvement at GCSE outstripped state schools by such a margin that it accounted for most of the rise in the pass rate.

Almost 13 per cent of independent schools' GCSE entries gained a starred A grade, four times the national average. And, for the first time, more than nine out of ten independent entries reached the equivalent of an old O-level pass, compared with little more than half in the state sector.

Not only did HMC schools and those in the Girls' Schools Association dominate the examination league tables, but the Government's analysis of last year's results showed

them to be the most successful at improving performance in the sixth form. This embryonic measurement of "value added" has shown independent schools to be doing as much for pupils of modest ability as for the high-flyers.

Hugh Wright, the Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, who will chair the conference, is naturally keen to steer the debate away from any hint of scandal, and on to educational issues. "I will be very disappointed if matters that are strictly personal are raised at the meeting, other than in relation to the strains of headship."

Independent schools are anxious to influence Sir Ron Dearing's review of the 16-19 curriculum, and some

headmasters will want to discuss the impact of a possible Labour government, and the loss of the Assisted Places Scheme. But Mr Wright is determined that neither should detract from his theme of partnership, which he sees as apt for a meeting in Ireland.

As the leading figure in a group of seven schools that straddles the state and independent sectors, Mr Wright is uniquely qualified to mediate between the two. "I certainly do not intend this to be a bland conference. Partnerships — whether between the state and independent system, governors and headmasters, or parents and schools — are at the centre of everything we do. I hope our discussions will help us to get them right."

New head for prep schools

Why a top administrator is opting out of the state sector

Not so long ago, ambitious young education administrators would have set their sights on taking the chief education officer's chair in one of the large local education authorities that rule schools in England and Wales.

But men like David Hanson are having to confront the fact that shifting financial responsibility away from the town halls to the schools, plus the introduction of grant-maintained schools, has reduced the role of education authorities to the bare minimum.

So Mr Hanson has decided at 38 to opt out himself, moving into the world of independent education as director of education of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS), representing almost 600 schools.

He moved into the association's Regency headquarters in Learning Spa, Warwickshire, last month from Wiltshire County Council, where he was responsible for a wide range of services to all kinds of schools.

Mr Hanson was last year's president of the Association of Assessment Inspectors and Advisers, which he helped to form, and is currently editor of the *British Journal of Curriculum and Assessment*. But he says he has never had a problem with independent education, which is about "variety and choice. Local authorities have lost their influence and power. They have changed so much they are hardly recognisable, and my feelings for them have changed."

My job now is to provide the best possible guidance and support for prep schools without being inhibited by a leaden bureaucracy. I also believe that education matters should be discussed and decided by those with a professional interest in education rather than those with a political axe to grind.

Mr Hanson, married with two daughters, has identified some areas he would like prep schools to address.

He says: "I think that within the next five years, schools will begin to consider transfer at 14 to be more appropriate than at other



David Hanson: switch

sional development, the teachers become stale, as do their lessons. The sparkle goes, and soon the parents go, too."

As prep schools introduce appraisal for their staff, many heads are coming to believe that they too should be appraised. Mr Hanson approves. "The head will choose the focus of the appraisal but however narrow that focus," he says, "the underlying purpose is usually to assess how effective his or her leadership is. The real value is to have a confidential conversation with a colleague about things they would not otherwise be able to talk about."

"The keys to a good school," says Mr Hanson, "are clear and purposeful leadership. Nothing is more important than that."

DAVID TYTLER

Now, bring on the girls

David Charter reports on a famous school joining the co-ed trend

Three hundred years of tradition will come to an end at another prestigious boys' school today when Chigwell School, in Essex, announces it is turning coeducational. Changing demands from parents are the main reasons cited by Tony Little, the Headmaster, who predicts a continued decline in single-sex schools.

However, the number of girls schools opting to take boys is far fewer, and members of the Girls' Schools Association report strong parental demand for daughters to be educated separately.

Chigwell, where parents pay up to £9,000 a year for boys to board, holds its first open day for prospective girls next weekend. Mr Little denies there are financial reasons behind the decision to admit girls, saying that the school has grown steadily over the past ten years.

He said: "The world is changing and I think the vast majority of schools will be co-ed in times to come. There has been a lot of publicity about single-sex schools performing well academically but if you scratch the surface you see these schools are academically excellent for historical reasons. They established themselves as a certain type of academic hothouse 'many years ago and that has sustained itself'."

This was the view of Alan Smithers in his recent report to the Headmasters' Conference coeducational group, which denied that single-sex education per se was responsible for high exam grades.

Professor Smithers noted: "All the research shows ability and social class to be most closely associated with examination performance. Schools heading the league tables seem to be there because they are able to select high-flyers and have longer experience of developing their talents."

One leading GSA headmistress, Judith Goodland, of Wycombe Abbey, in Buckinghamshire, rejected the Smithers report. She firmly

believes that higher results achieved by girls are encouraged by a single-sex environment. "Girls and boys are very different in their rates of maturity," she said. "Nobody's better or worse. We simply believe that girls do very well in the single-sex classroom because the teaching can be geared towards them."

As late as 1968, just three of the country's 273 public schools had mixed classes. Recession has played a part in the swing towards coeducation — as much as social pressures — but there were no exam league tables in 1968. Does the fact that girls schools do so well in the tables lead boys schools to hope their own results will be boosted by admitting females?

Mr Little said: "This was not a reason for our decision. I think there is a lot of fuss about the academic issue of single-sex schools to do with results. I don't think you can read too much into positions in league tables — a good school is a good school."

"I think the social issues are becoming more important," he said. "We have a constant demand from parents asking why here. I think this is part of a sea-change going on."

Mr Little said the 660-pupil school would have to be phased in over a number of years starting in 1997. He said: "Numbers have risen by 10 per cent in the past five years. If you are changing out of principle, it must be done when the school is quite conspicuously going from a position of strength on."

However, a backlash was expected from some parents. Mr Little said: "We have sent a questionnaire to parents and it is only a very small number who have chosen the school specifically because it is single sex. If we thought differently we would not be doing it. What people like is the ethos of the school, irrespective of the gender of pupils."



Joanna Hassocks, 15, a pupil at Sevenoaks, represented Scotland in the national rifle championships at Bisley

A child's sporting chance

Richard Barker argues that all of society benefits from sports opportunities provided at school

League tables used to be associated with sport. Now they are etched in people's minds as a benchmark for school examination performance, indeed, as the primary means of judging schools. This shift, of course, is reflected in the life of school communities: school sport and related activities are no longer regarded as highly as they once were, and because of this many children are losing out.

Over the past decade, school sport has had a particularly raw deal in the state sector. The exigencies of the national curriculum are partly responsible. There simply has not been the time in a normal five-day school (9am to 3.30pm) to give sport an adequate look-in since so much time is now centred on GCSE or A levels. Cost-cutting has not helped and many teachers are less willing than of old to give up their free time to encourage a child who may or may not be athletic but who really enjoys sport or other activities.

One result has been a toll on teenage fitness: another has been a closing of future doors. Sports such as basketball, cricket, football or sailing may be a joy for a lifetime. Some young people may go on to make a professional or ama-

teur sporting career; others will continue them as a hobby. Such activities can broaden horizons and extend the range of contacts in adult life. They can give a sense of fulfilment and self-worth, and an understanding of team spirit, so useful in family and working life — despite its deprecation in many quarters.

Nor should we be talking only of sport but also of testing activities like the well-developed Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme that provides trials of will and stamina, encourages the learning of many life skills and develops team spirit. It gives, too, the opportunity to the young to prove that they have self-reliance and can work with others in difficult situations.

So how can schools maintain and improve their league tables while at the same time offering the joy and challenges of recreational pursuits?

One way is for schools to make provisions for sport out of hours, including the weekend, and through occasional

weeks in the holidays when, as it happens, many of the inter-school national competitions take place. This, of course, needs commitment from staff and parents, but the benefits to the young as they work their way up to club or national level can be both exciting and offer major opportunities for personal development.

At Sevenoaks, for example, we have sought to build up specialist activities, besides the usual large team sports, cultural and voluntary service programmes. Activities include sailing, shooting, tennis, or, for non-sportsmen, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Gradually, over a decade, the standard of performance has risen — even until the senior pupils (and some much younger) are competing at national and international level. Ten of our boys and girls are now shooting for their country. Top sailors competed in the UK trials of the Adult World Team Racing Championships. Seven pupils

were selected to join major international expeditions through the British Schools' Exploring Society or Raleigh International, over the holiday. We are also hoping an Old Senecian may bring back a sailing gold medal from the Olympics (only a few years ago that he was an ordinary member of the squad).

None of this has been achieved at the expense of the academic side. Dedicated staff, coaches and helpers have given additional time. Nor, except in tennis, have we great facilities. Our sailing is largely on a reservoir seven miles away, whilst our outdoor 25-yard range might be an applicant for the Heritage Fund.

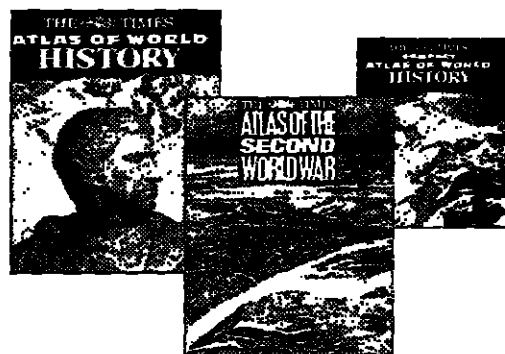
Finally, there is national pride to consider. Britain needs to keep its oar in the sporting scene. Sport may be undervalued in school but it is highly esteemed in life. Our countrymen were the first to break the four-minute-mile barrier and to conquer Everest. We have set an example of sportsmanship throughout the world. Without adequate emphasis on sports provision for the new generation we may find ourselves outclassed.

The writer is Headmaster of Sevenoaks School

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BUCKLEY

4-2-2008

LISTINGS

TODAY

Interims: Ash & Lacy, Brightstone, British Dredging, Chiroscience Group, Greenacre, Moss Bros, Ossia, Stylo, Final: Anglessey Mining, Betacom, DCS Group, Groupe Chex Gerard, Melrose Energy, Ricardo Group, Economic statistics: M0 figures (September - provisional).

TOMORROW

Interims: Arcadian International, Biocompatibles International, Bloomsbury Publishing, Istock, Middlesex Holdings, OS Holdings, Second Market Investment Trust, Stentright Holdings, Final: James Hales, Manchester United, Economic statistics: Balance of UK visible trade (July), UK official reserves (September), energy statistics (August), full monetary statistics, including bank and building society balance sheets, final M4 and lending, personal borrowing, public sector funding, sterling commercial paper and medium-term note issues (August).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Abnast European Index, Austin Reed, Bank of Scotland, Blenheim Group, Global Group, Gramplan Holdings, Hewden Stuart, Hunting, International Investment Trust of Jersey, Neil Clark, North Atlantic Smaller, Prospect Japan Fund, Rea Holdings, United Industries, Final: Burn Stewart Distillers, Magnum Power, Libson, Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (July).

THURSDAY

Interims: Barry Wehmiller, Brunel Holdings, Danifair International, Hopkins Group, TJ Hughes, Meggit, Schroder Spiff Fund, Wensum Clothing, Final: Brunel Holdings, Galliford, Robert McBride, Economic statistics: Employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators, housing starts and completions (August), house renovations (2nd quarter).

FRIDAY

Interims: BMSS, Chesham Racecourse, Horace Clarkson, Eurotunnel, Martin International, HC Singlet, Final: Waterman Partnership, Economic statistics: Cyclical UK economy indicators (August), index of production (August), UK economic accounts (2nd quarter).

Listings swell to more than 90

LISTINGS on the Alternative Investment Market will swell to 91 companies today, kicking the exchange into a league likely to attract more of the big money from institutional investors as well as offering wider scope to the public.

Ten newcomers joining the ranks add to last week's total, which grew by 33 to 81 in preparation for Friday's abolition of the Stock Exchange's Rule 4.2 trading facility for small companies. Many have upgraded to AIM. Neil Austin, head of new issues at KPMG corporate finance, said: "AIM is moving towards critical mass."

AIM, which began in June with just 10 companies, will be further boosted later this year with the expected launch of venture-capital trusts and an anticipated flotation of an AIM trust. Mr Austin said: "The new collective instrument vehicles such as VCTs should provide companies with a valuable source of funds and should play an important role in the development of AIM."

Dealers in stocks on AIM have been seeing a steady increase in interest from institutional investors over the past few weeks as the stream of companies joining the market has continued.

Counting today's entrants, 80 companies have jumped over from Rule 4.2 while 11 came straight to AIM trading. Up to 300 companies have used the exchange's 4.2 facility. Those that do not transfer will either abandon active stock trading or shift to screen-based services such as Olex, developed as an alternative to 4.2.

Some companies have complained that the costs of joining AIM are prohibitive as the Stock Exchange requires listed companies to have a nominated adviser, costing about £25,000.

However, many market watchers believe that, after a cautious start, AIM has developed a momentum capable of pulling along many more reticent companies as its money-raising potential grows.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

Mid cap (millions)	Company	Price pence	Wtd +/-	Yld %	P/E
10.50	AMCO Corp	94	...	6.0	10.3
17.70	Abacus Recruit	16	...	6.0	9.8
6.12	A de Guay	120	...	...	...
...	Albemarle & Bt	12	+ 1	...	...
...	Ann St Brewery	410	...	...	...
...	Ann St Cv Pl	865	...	...	...
93.50	Antonov	133	+ 2	...	...
...	Athelney Trust	56	...	...	...
4.30	Balcato	48	...	...	...
...	Bowness Leds	140	...	...	...
...	Bown Leds Cv Pl	75	...	...	...
4.56	Branco Hds	46	...	...	...
23.10	Brookbank	198	+ 3	4.0	19.8
...	CCI Hds	110	+ 2	...	...
...	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
3.35	Cale Inns	120	...	2.1	9.9
...	Caledonian Tst	75	...	...	...
11.50	Card Clear	58	...	...	...
...	Celtic	6600	...	...	...
...	Celtic Pl Shs	6600	...	...	...
...	Cf Comm(TV)	127	...	...	...
13.90	ClubPartners	33	...	...	...
7.39	Conister Tst	37	+ 1	2.7	15.8
10.90	Country Gals	61	...	2.5	12.6
2.57	Ctry Gals Pl	70	- 3	8.5	...
9.13	DBS Management	135	...	5.6	...
32.50	Dewon Hds	710	+ 10	5.1	9.8
...	Deart Corp	10	...	...	...
5.62	Euro Sales Fm	125	...	...	...
...	Farleto	210	+ 5	...	...
...	Fini Publs	38	...	...	...
6.83	Fluorac	41	...	17.8	...
4.30	Floral St	185	- 5	10.1	...
8.72	Formscan	93	+ 2	23.6	...
27.40	Gander Hds	92	...	...	...
5.55	Graduate Apts	33	+ 2	39.6	...
0.25	Grad Apts Wls	23	...	...	...
...	Grenville	18	...	...	...
...	Gulton	165	...	...	...
...	Hanson	60	...	...	...
47.70	Hiscox Ded Ins	105	...	0.3	...
...	Hiscox Ded p/p	55	...	...	...
...	Hiscox Wls	3	...	...	...
12.20	Inner Workings	73	...	...	...
18.80	Jennings Bros	290	- 5	2.5	24.9
...	Lawrence	205	- 3	2.9	15.6
59.50	Lawrie Group	3050	+ 50	6.9	28.4
46.40	La Riches Sus	280	...	...	...
...	Lithome As Tan	90	...	...	...
26.60	Lon Fiducary	24	...	...	...
8.84	Lorlen Grp	155	...	...	28.2
3.99	Melbak	63	...	...	...
304.90	Memory Corp	510	- 45	...	...
...	Metropole Films	128	- 2	3.4	21.1
9.72	Moorey	61	...	...	...
17.60	Multimedia	295	...	2.8	14.2
22.10	NWF Grp	150	...	5.5	...
...	Nash (Wm)	1142	...	2.2	14.2
5.72	Neill Clerk	63	...	...	...
...	Norfolk	63	...	...	...
...	Norhams	71	...	...	...
15.90	Nursing Home	103	...	...	...
8.58	Old English Pub	78	...	3.2	...
5.24	Ompicare	85	- 3	2.2	14.1
10.40	Omnimedia	75	...	...	...
7.41	Pan Andean Res	18	+2	...	...
5.02	Park Est(LV)	240	...	...	...
3.62	Priston Nth E	400	...	...	...
...	Ricanan Insee	126	- 4	...	...
13.00	SBS Satellite	56	...	...	...
...	Scott Pids	265	+ 1	6.1	10.8
12.70	Scutlions	2	...	...	...
...	Siltham	532	+ 9	3.7	14.5
125.50	Southern News	173	+ 5	...	...
...	Stanford Rook	75	- 5	1.7	...
9.58	Surrey Pl Inns	740	- 10	...	...
37.60	TRACKER Netw	40	...	...	...
...	Univest	488	- 27	...	...
...	VDC	585	...	...	...
21.10	Versailles Grp	8	...	...	15.2
...	Voss	171	...	...	...
...	Wetherburn Secs	12	- 2	...	...
...	Widd Secs Wlrs	4	...	...	...
9.19	Wychester Mtd	83	- 7	...	...
...	Wynsey Props	150	...	...	...
...	Zorgo	140	...	...	...

Askin seeks to overturn court order

Julian Askin, the British-born businessman wanted in South Africa on fraud charges, is seeking to have a ruling authorising his extradition overturned in the Italian courts.

Mr Askin, who left Italy for London before the order was approved, is expected to argue through his lawyers, that no valid extradition treaty exists between Italy and South Africa.

The Italians said the order could be enforced if Mr Askin returned. Mr Askin, former chairman of Tollgate Holdings, faces eight charges of fraud totalling 29 million rand (£5 million).

Ukraine to get \$350m

The International Monetary Fund has approved \$350 million in credits for Ukraine, the third part of a loan to help the former Soviet republic stabilise its economy. Yevhen Marchuk, the Prime Minister, said on Saturday.

Mr Marchuk told Interfax Ukraine news agency that the IMF approved allocation of the standby credit at a meeting he attended on Friday in Washington.

Cortworth plans listing

Cortworth, the specialist engineering group born of a 1993 management buyout of Williams Holdings, is planning a Stock Exchange listing.

Turnover in the year ending December 31, 1994, was £58.3 million, earning pre-tax profit of £6.4 million.

MBOs back in favour

Management buyouts are back in favour and could top £45 billion this year, KPMG, the accountant, forecast.

In the first nine months of 1995, the total value of MBOs overtook the total for 1994. To date, 70 MBOs have been achieved this year, and 1994's total of 83 MBOs is within reach.

Brewton buy

Brewton, the TechniRent electronic rental specialist, is paying £7.35 million for Show Presentations Services, which rents audio-visual equipment.



MICHAEL CLARK

Still no light at end of Eurotunnel



Sir Alastair cannot escape Eurotunnel's debts, which are costing £2 million a day in interest

EUROTUNNEL: The group's talent for shocking the market is likely to be suppressed when half-year figures are unveiled on Friday. This is simply because, short of launching another sizeable fundraising exercise, most of the bad news is already known.

Last month, Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of the tunnel operator, put paid to weeks of speculation both in Paris and London and informed the consortium of 220 banks that the group was suspending interest payments for up to 18 months. The project currently has debts totalling about £8 billion hanging round its neck, costing it an estimated £2.2 million a day in interest charges.

The latest revenue figures of £104.5 million fell woefully short of forecast and meant, quite simply, that the group was not covering the cost of constructing the tunnel and repaying the banks. As a result, there is unlikely to be anything contained in Friday's figures, which will offer shareholders comfort. Brokers will not even attempt to make a forecast of the outcome. This is because it is not known if Eurotunnel plans to roll up costs, or charge them to the profit and loss account. When the group unveiled half-year figures this time last year, it showed a token profit of £1.7 million. It had only been up and running a short while and was operating a freight-only service.

The only thing certain about Friday's figures is that the company will not report a profit. In the meantime, the group is likely to continue pursuing its claim against TransManche Link, the consortium of contractors behind construction of the project.

BANK OF SCOTLAND: Interim profits on Wednesday, at first glance, are likely to appear impressive. Pre-tax profits are expected to increase 24 per cent to £263 million with the final outcome boosted by a £24 million surplus on the sale of its interest in its associate Halifax Credit Card to Halifax Building Society. The bank has enjoyed strong loan growth, but mortgage margins have narrowed even further.

due to fierce competition in a depressed marketplace. Costs are also estimated to have risen 8 per cent. The trend in provisions for bad and doubtful debts continues to be downwards with the figure for the full year dropping from £119 million to £77 million.

IBSTOCK: Brokers will be hoping for positive news about the sale of the group's stake in Caixa, its forest products business, when half-year figures are unveiled on Wednesday. Back in May, Istock bought Tarmac's brick division and succeeded in

driving its bank borrowings sharply higher. At the last count, they had reached about £90 million. The successful disposal of Caixa will deny the group of a valuable source of revenue but will at least go some way to reducing debt and easing broker's concerns.

Pre-tax profits are expected to have almost doubled to £8 million, according to NatWest Securities, the broker. But this hides the fact that Istock is still heavily exposed to the troubled house-building industry and any sign of recovery may still be far off.

HEWDEEN STUART: The company should provide one of the few bright spots in the building and construction industry when it reports first-half figures on Wednesday.

Pre-tax profits are expected to increase almost £4 million to £20 million, resulting in a 17 per cent increase in earnings per share to 4.8p. The group has benefited from better utilisation of capacity and the increased use of plant hire by the big construction contractors.

Back in August, it spent a total of £8 million on acquisitions,

which should benefit profits in the second half. But the group is aware that it is as vulnerable to a slowdown in the construction industry as anyone else.

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS: A useful improvement is expected from this highly diversified group, with interests ranging from pharmaceuticals to transport and sporting equipment, when it unveils half-year figures on Wednesday.

These are expected to show pre-tax profits up from £3.6 million to at least £3.9 million with brokers looking for a final outcome of £10.4 million against £8.5 million last time. The transport division has been enjoying the benefits of recent rationalisation and brokers expect it to provide the main thrust to profits.

Warehousing and distribution have been combined and there has been greater emphasis on fleet utilisation. Market gossip suggests that the transport division may eventually be floated off. The pharmaceutical division has also been undergoing restructuring, with heavy emphasis on cost reduction, and this should be reflected in its contribution to profits. But both sporting goods and retailing continue to find the going difficult.

MANCHESTER UNITED: Unlike its Premier League side, the share price has been in good form of late, closing on Friday just 11p short of its all-time high.

A quick glance at the estimates pencilled in for full-year figures on Tuesday, and it is not difficult to see why the shares have been so strong. Pre-tax profits are expected to have soared by £8 million to £10.8 million. This figure will include a surplus of £3.5 million relating to the money made on transfers. Last year the group actually lost money in the transfer market.

Stripping out the vagaries of the transfer market, it becomes clear that the group has enjoyed another strong performance. It has seen buoyant ticket sales and strong growth on the merchandising side. Operating profits are expected to have risen 37 per cent to £15 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Output under scrutiny

THERE are key statistical releases on economic growth this week for Britain, America and Germany. In Britain, the most widely watched indicator will come on Friday with figures for August manufacturing output.

The median forecast compiled by MMS International is for manufacturing output to rebound from July's surprising 0.4 per cent drop, growing by 0.4 per cent. Total industrial production, which rose by 0.3 per cent in July, is expected to have increased by the same amount in August.

In America, the key indicators will be today's purchasing managers' index, a keenly watched barometer of US economic activity. The index for September is expected to show a strengthening from August's level. On Friday, non-farm payrolls, the main US measure of employment, is published. The markets want to see whether the economic rebound since the second quarter has been strong enough to boost employment as healthily as it did in August when non-farm payrolls jumped by 249,000. Adam Chester, international bond strategist at Yamaichi International Europe, is looking for a robust rise of around 200,000.

German figures for industrial and manufacturing output are expected to be published sometime this week. Both are expected to show a decline after the very hefty increases of 4 per cent and 4.3 per cent respectively in July. MMS International's survey of forecasts predicts a 2 per cent decline in both measures of industrial activity.

Other indicators in Britain this week include September's purchasing managers' survey, M0 money supply figures and the Nationwide's house price index, all today. Tomorrow, look out for the Halifax house price index, July's whole world trade figures and August personal borrowing figures. Thursday sees the latest figures for housing starts and car sales.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Pearson, Chiroscience, Brunel, Istock. Sell WH Smith, The Observer, Buy Mervier-Swain, House of Fraser. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Chiroscience, Independent on Sunday, Buy British-Borneo, Sell Cable and Wireless, Sedgwick. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Savills, Hold United News & Media, Sell Trafalgar House, Istock. Sunday Express: Buy South West Water.

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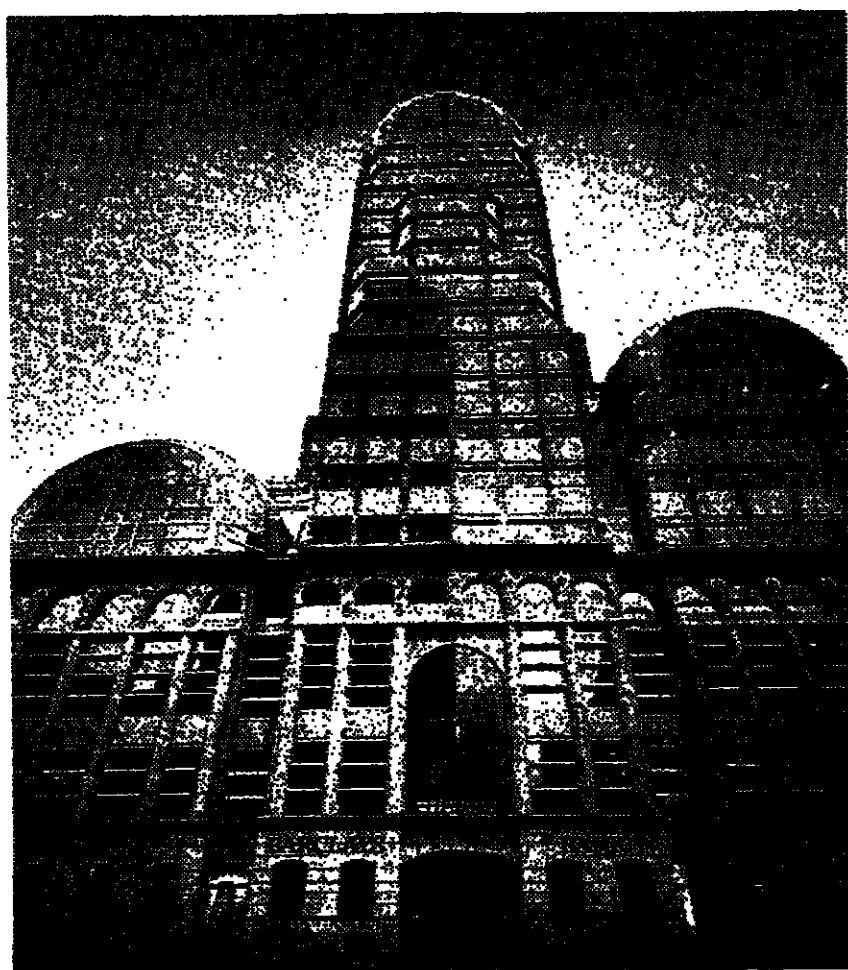
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البيان المالي

Ashanti looks at US listing

Ashanti, the 41.4 per cent Lounho-owned Ghanaian gold mine quoted on the London and Ghanaian stock exchanges, is considering a listing in New York on the Big Board, company officials have told *The Times*.

A final decision will be taken within three months and reflects increasing American investment interest in a gold mining company widely regarded as the premier non-South African gold mine on the continent.

The current share register shows Lounho holding 41.4 per cent, the Ghanaian Government 28.6 per cent and the public 30 per cent.

Bid claim

Harnischfeger Industries of America, which has mounted a hostile £172 million cash bid for Dobson Park Industries, the mining equipment group, yesterday said that Dobson has "no strategy, and no future as an independent company". The US bidder challenged the premise of five arguments that have been put forward by Dobson in its defence, and reiterated that its bid, at 110p a share, offers "the certainty of cash, today — not vague talk of prospects, future potential and underlying value".

Fayeds' payout

Harrods, the London department store, said that a £50 million dividend paid by Harrods Holdings, its holding company, to the trust controlled by the Fayed brothers, Mohamed and Ali, was the first time the brothers had received since buying the Harrods store ten years ago. The dividend was declared out of 1994-95 pre-tax profits of £70.9 million, according to accounts filed at Companies House.

UK risks losing lead in foreign investment

By Jon Ashworth

BRITAIN risks losing its crown as Europe's favoured destination for foreign investors, according to a report that suggests thousands of manufacturing jobs could be lost to lower cost competition from Asia and Eastern Europe.

Inward investment agencies need to sharpen their act, and City institutions have an important role to play in identifying new areas of growth, the report by London Economics, an independent economic consultancy, says.

It finds that the manufacturing sector is most vulnerable to foreign competition.

Britain has been the most successful country after America in attracting inward investment, winning more than £10 billion in projects in 1993 alone, but rationalisation by multinational companies is set to take its toll. The dismantling of trade barriers within the European Union has reduced the need to operate plants in different countries. Cost pressures and the economies of scale derived from concentrating facilities in fewer locations give firms a strong incentive to rationalise.

London Economics says: "Rather than competing for a new project or an expansion, countries, agencies and local management are competing to retain that which they already hold."

The impact of increasing competition will be greatest on

manufacturing projects in the short to medium term. Britain will have to work hard at attracting financial services and other "high value added service activities" if it hopes to maintain a high level of inward investment. The City will need to play an increasing role in identifying and funding suitable projects.

European rivals are becoming increasingly professional in their approach to attracting foreign investment, the report says, and UK agencies are urged to change tack. One approach would be to work alongside local management to ensure that UK facilities win inter-plant contests.

More than 3,500 American companies have invested in Britain. Japan's three largest car companies have chosen the UK as a major European base, and more than 40 per cent of total Japanese investment in the UK. More than 1,000 German companies have invested some 12 per cent of Germany's overseas investment in the UK.

Inward investors accounted for one in six manufacturing jobs in the UK in 1990, but finance, insurance and business services remain important. Treasury operations and European headquarters tend to be located in London, and the abundance of professional services continues to act as a magnet for foreign firms.



John Gorman and Peter Sherman say they have been threatened and had property damaged in a series of bizarre incidents

Gorman to fight BA from abroad

By Colin Narbrough

JOHN GORMAN, the former policeman engaged in a long-running battle with British Airways, pledged to continue his legal fight with the airline as he left the country by ship for the Continent to set up home abroad.

Mr Gorman's dispute with BA began with his alleged discovery of a piece of glass in an inflight meal. The subsequent public and private exchanges between him and BA management have failed to resolve the issue and his legal

action against BA is expected to come to a head soon.

A legal adviser to Mr Gorman, who had to take early retirement after damaging his health in the rescue operation after the Brighton bombing in 1984, claimed that his client was leaving Britain to live abroad because he "feared for his safety".

A series of bizarre incidents in which Mr Gorman and his companion, Peter Sherman, had been threatened or had property damaged have

proved very costly. Two weeks ago, a BBC film crew took footage of several thousand pounds worth of damage to Mr Gorman's BMW. The paintwork was scratched in daylight outside his Enfield flat. The words "no win BA" were gouged into the boot.

BA denies any connection with the incidents in which its name has usually been used in connection with the case.

Mr Gorman's legal adviser said a recent report in *The*

Sunday Times which contained allegations against Mr Gorman is to be the subject of a complaint to the Press Complaints Commission.

Mr Gorman last month disclosed to *The Times* that he had received \$5,000 in compensation from Dobbs International Services, a US catering company, after finding glass in an ice cream dessert he ate on board a Delta Airlines flight in 1991. Both Mr Gorman and Mr Sherman are frequent fliers.

Canadians see golden future in Spain

By Colin Campbell
Mining Correspondent

SLAVES of the Roman Empire once worked the gold mines of Asturias. Now Rio Narcea Gold Mines, a Toronto-listed Canadian company, is bringing the old Roman pits back to life with modern mining technology and finding extensive new seams that the Romans never discovered.

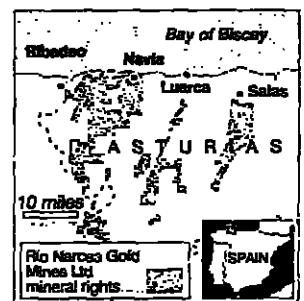
The modest £28 million company, which owns licences over an area in Asturias twice the size of the Isle of Wight, reckons that although the Romans may well have taken the "eyes" out of the gold deposits, they left behind enough to justify bringing several mines into operation. Chris von Christensen, chairman, said: "There no reason why Spain shouldn't become the foremost gold producing country in Europe."

Between 1985 and 1994, the northern Spanish properties were investigated by South Africa's Anglo American group, whose joint partner was Spain's quoted coal group Hualas del Coto Cortes (HCC). Anglo spent \$15 million and proved a case for gold. However, in Anglo American's book, gold mining in Spain was "too small".

In stepped Rio Narcea, paying an entry cost of \$6 million which brought it exploration rights, buildings and land, and an extensive data bank. Rio Narcea also employed an enthusiastic team of geologists who had worked for Anglo and knew the workings, and in turn initiated its own determined exploration drive.

Over the past 18 months, Rio Narcea has drilled apace. Indicated grades of 4 grams a tonne are encouraging, and the management is hoping soon to complete a bankable feasibility study of its El Valle deposit, after which a first production date can be established. Rio Narcea reported *in situ* gold reserves of 1.78 million ounces in July. Its target is 4 million ounces by the end of 1998.

Mr von Christensen has promised his exploration team that he will be speaking fluent Spanish by the time of the company's first gold pour. Reportedly, he is making rapid progress, so a first gold pour can't be far behind.



Three months ago, it was argued in this column that international economic conditions, prospective as well as current, were very propitious for bond markets.

The central point was that global GDP growth was dull and probably deteriorating, while inflation — not a problem even in the period of briskest demand — was set to moderate still further. The consequence was going to be a willingness amongst the world's monetary authorities, strongly backed by elected governments, to ease liquidity conditions. It did not matter that public sector borrowing would be on a rising trend: its effects on bond prices would be more than offset by the concurrent decline in the private sector's demand for funds.

Today, that economic analysis appears to have been largely correct, and so does the response it evoked amongst central banks. But the reaction of the markets was a

Ample reward for the risk factor

little restrained, disappointing even. Although bond prices certainly rose, the total real return was typically above 10 per cent, they did so less exuberantly than had seemed likely at the mid-summer stage.

What caused the lack of enthusiasm amongst investors is not clear. The widespread suggestion that it was the result of a generally unhelpful "political" situation is one that is difficult to substantiate. While it is clear that governments were almost universally unpopular, there was little in what they did to justify market caution. Nowhere was the commitment to "free markets" diminished; nor was there any perceptible loss of determination to return fiscal policies to equilibrium. It was not just incumbent administrations that

mouthed financial piety; the oppositions did so as well. Indeed, to the dispassionate observer, the effect of the political environment on bond investors might be thought to have been a source less of anxiety than of comfort.

A more satisfactory explanation of the markets' nervousness during the third quarter might lie in the currency turmoil that afflicted the period.

For the international bond investor, developments in foreign exchanges are often more important (in the short term, at any rate) than all other considerations put together. And what has been happening recently is a profound change in the dollar-yen relationship, cou-

pled with an intensification of divisive forces within the ERM. Some bondholders were winners in this situation, others were losers, but all were disenchanted. Everyone recognised that the "risk" of investment in the fixed interest market had been underestimated.

Sterling was on the currency sidelines for most of the third quarter, but its consequent stability did nothing to encourage investment in the gilt market. The general view was that, though the pound might have come unscathed through the latest disturbance, it was no less likely to be embroiled in the next one. The risk premium attached to gilts had therefore to be raised as much as that in any other

fixed interest market. The likely consequence for the investor is that the advance in bond prices will prove bumpy than anticipated, but last longer. The fundamentals are as strong as ever.

The Japanese economy is still severely depressed and needs an enormous injection of liquidity. Germany is probably in even deeper trouble. It needs not only to stimulate economic activity, but to depress its currency. Without the latter goal being achieved, companies will simply move their operations overseas. The Germans must weaken the D-mark by a good 15 per cent, and the more that Waigel does to undermine confidence in the ERM (sensible though his scepticism is), the bigger the interest rate reductions will have to be. The only justification for ner-

vousness is the US. If its economy is rebounding rapidly (as the latest order numbers suggest), Greenspan can be expected to act partially to offset the monetary stimulus of his counterparts in the Bundesbank and the Bank of Japan. The most likely prognosis, is that American activity will stay fairly subdued and that global liquidity conditions will remain expansive.

For gilt holders, the near-term auguries (at home and abroad) are as favourable as ever. Real GDP growth is going to be uninspiring, inflation moderating and interest rates subsiding. Even if the risk premium attached to the markets should continue to rise, investors can anticipate a substantial real return. They will have to learn to live with heightened volatility, but will be generously rewarded.

ROGER NIGHTINGALE
Global Strategist
Latinvest Securities

Manweb

Shareholder information update

Manweb's response to ScottishPower's final offer

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CURRENCY RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch	16.81	15.31
Belgium Fr	48.18	44.88
Canada \$	2.288	2.076
Cyprus Cyp£	0.747	0.682
Denmark Kr	9.53	8.59
Finland Mk	7.52	6.87
France Fr	6.56	7.51
Germany Dr	2.46	2.19
Greece Dr	361.00	355.00
Hong Kong \$	12.57	11.57
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Sh	5.1430	4.4930
Italy Lit	2645.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	169.00	153.00
Malta	0.598	0.543
Netherlands Gld	2.682	2.432
New Zealand \$	2.55	2.33
Norway Kr	10.47	9.57
Portugal Esc	246.50	229.00
S Africa R	ref	5.49
Spain Ptas	201.50	188.30
Sweden Kr	11.82	10.82
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.76
Turkey Lira	ref	73670.0
USA \$	1.978	1.548

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5820 (+0.0016)
German mark 2.2483 (+0.0076)
Exchange index 84.6 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
FT 30 share 2586.6 (-16.9)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 3479.0 (-35.8)
New York Dow Jones 4789.08 (+24.93)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17913.06 (+199.13)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

GALLOWGLASS

(a) A gallowglass was a very irregular member of an Irish chieftain's private army, like the IRA, but with bloody charm instead of cowardly. Remember the bloody Sergeant's big messenger's speech in *Macbeth*: "The merciless Macdonwald... from the western isles/ Of Kames and Gallowglasses is supplied/ And Fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling, Show'd like a rebel's whore."

GORGET

(b) A small metal badge, usually crescent-shaped, worn by British Army officers from circa 1800 onwards as a decoration, but originally thrust through for wars of slashing and thrusting. From the Old French diminutive of *gorge* a throat.

MAIN GAUCHE

(c) It was common in the Middle Ages to wear a dagger on the left side to supplement the sword in your right hand, and to help ascend the circular stairways in fortifications. These usually rose clockwise in order to give the upper hand to the defenders, who were assumed to be right-handed.

CULVERIN

(d) A long-barrelled, thin cannon weighing about 50 cwt, and usually an 18-pounder. Ultimately from the Latin *culver* a snake. Congreve: "O I am calm, Sir, calm as a discharged culverin."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rxb4 and if 2 Qxb4 B+ wins the white queen.

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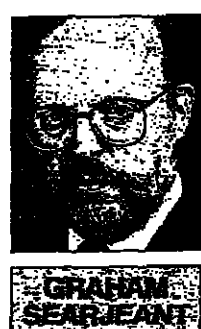
Every Labour Party conference seems to suffer the same underlying tension. Political aspirations are in constant conflict with practical economic reality. Activists have a limitless agenda to improve the lot of the poor, the underprivileged and the disadvantaged — and to bash the rest. But they are constantly told that the party has to be modest, responsible and compromising in order to win the confidence of the mass of voters.

Every Labour conference but this one that is. For once, Labour faces the ultimate political luxury. It can develop its economic strategy with the comforting thought that what its heart wants to do is what its head should tell it to do. So far, however, there is not much evidence that it will seize the opportunity to get away from plans to spend lots of money, frustrated by the economy's failure to provide the wherewithal.

The concentrated focus of Labour's economic policy should be an attack on poverty. Ever-rising numbers of poor people, and the increasingly unsustainable bill to relieve their plight, have become the Achilles' heel of the economy, keeping taxes high, interest rates up and economic growth down. Unless this trend is reversed, Labour can forget its ambitions for public services just as Tories have had to abandon cuts in the tax burden.

Labour's heart well understands the difference between attacking poverty and relieving it. You do not feel so poor if you can sustain a

Attacking poverty is the best economic policy



GRAHAM SEABRIGHT

decent life, however modest, from your earnings, from the benefits of your house or capital or from universal transfers such as state pensions, child benefit, free health care and public education. You feel much poorer if you must rely on selective, usually means-tested, welfare benefits to sustain that same modest standard. The key to Labour's economic strategy should be to help poor people below retirement age to become better off, not to give more state top-ups.

Strangely, it is Conservatives who have resorted ever more to taxpayers. Their strategy, sound in theory, was to free the economy to become more efficient, while giving a helping hand to those who suffer in the process. The social security cost was assumed to be temporary, because a dynamic market economy would boost the rate of growth, raise living standards and create "real" jobs.

The efficiency gains have been delivered on a much-enlarged market economy. In the early days of reform, as at British Steel, there was even planning to help new enterprises replace old. But as the pace of change accelerated the Government relied on unaided market forces

and hastily promised welfare subsidies to mop up the problems. That has been the undoing of its economic strategy.

An extra 1.5 million or so people, mostly breadwinning men, are unemployed at any moment. Reform of rented housing has hugely boosted welfare dependency. Low pay is subsidised ever more by the state, while suffering a 30 per cent tax. A £3 billion tax on domestic fuel required a £1 billion rise in welfare payments. Unwinding cross-subsidies from power consumers to mining communities, or from well-off water consumers to poor ones, boosted welfare spending. Taxes

are up, growth is no better and the CBI wants more state job subsidies. The civilised welfare safety net the Government has maintained, far from being the natural complement of a truly free-market economy, is ultimately incompatible with it. If Labour tried to free the economy by attacking poverty it would face equivalent problems.

The measure of success would be whether it cut the social security budget. That is, for instance, the acid test of the proposed national minimum wage, one of the main symbolic focuses at Brighton this week. It is an illusion to suppose that several million people could be made permanently better off at the stroke of a legislative pen.

The more people qualify, the more likely a national minimum is to reduce the demand for jobs. Any figure much above £3.50 per hour, for instance, could affect a quarter of all women workers. That would surely generate the feared spiral to maintain differentials, even though low pay tends to be concentrated in industries where few are paid well. And if the minimum were applied to young workers, or to micro-firms casually employing less than a

handful of people, demand could be hit as harshly as in some continental countries, or business would be driven underground. If there were any significant rise in unemployment, the policy would have failed.

On its own, a national minimum should initially function as a safeguard against rogue employers, setting an absolute limit of decency. As part of a more general attack on poverty, however, it could play an increasing role as other pieces of the jigsaw are put in place.

To start with, employers as a whole need to be compensated for any rise in pay costs incurred by some. Employers' National Insurance contributions should certainly be abolished for anything up to a full week's wage at the national minimum. This floor should be raised as soon as possible to account for any differentials spiral. Eventually, employers' NICs should be abolished altogether to raise the demand for labour. Part of the cost might be recouped by a differentially higher rate of corporation tax on companies that cut like-for-like staff levels. That is a proper way for employers to contribute.

Even fairly high minimum wages would not make much impact on family poverty unless income tax allowances are raised, with the married man's allowance as the cost-efficient priority. As Labour's training fars know, that is only the start. Poverty cannot be attacked by a few headline policies. It requires a different state of mind.

Putting on the denim

THE strict dress code enforced by The Royal Automobile Club, Fall Mall, may be about to run up against its commercial sidekick as a venue for company annual meetings. A spokeswoman insists that etiquette requires "collar, tie and jacket for gentlemen, smart business dress for ladies, strictly no denim of any kind for either gender. I repeat, NO denim". That doesn't entirely suit Algy Cluff, who has held Cluff Resources annual meetings at the RAC, but recalls that the RAC had to rustle up a tie this year before letting one shareholder in. "The thought that a club can frustrate the letter of the Companies Act by denying a shareholder the right to attend a meeting is too awful," the bespoken Algy says. Next year, it could be back to The Ritz.

New seed

HARVEST Festival is no sooner passed when Williams de Broe gathers in its own new crop of analysts. Malcolm Graham-Wood, special oil salesman at Wood Mackenzie for four years and top salesman at James Capel for 12, is made director, head of UK equities — the first outsider to join the board immediately in 126 years. Paul Backhouse comes from SBC as head of European research, together with Peter Woods and Geoff Haire, who join the pharmaceuticals and chemicals team, respectively. Gilt specialists Francis Boff and David Eccles switch from SG Warburg. Bill Myers, former-

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

ly research head at Yamaichi, joins as do Richard Greene, Claire Gordon and Wayne Geisbrecht from Allied Provincial.

Stork stakes

READERS responded warmly to British Vita's call (City Diary, September 8) to suggest names for the baby storks nesting on top of its new foam factory in Brez Dolney, Poland. Entries include Tchaikovsky, Rimsky Storks, Vitachix, and Storkis and Hatch. If Russian, Vladivostorks. All entries have been sent — by carrier pigeon — to British Vita.

EVERYONE should know that Germany only wants European Monetary Union on its terms, for fear of the mark losing value on the move to a single currency. But it is really necessary for the monetary policy spokesman of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic party to be called Gero Pfennig.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Labour gaining ground in fight for business

Everything to play for in new political arena, says Philip Bassett

Business is becoming the new battleground for British politics. At Labour's annual conference, which opens today, party leader Tony Blair will emphasise the importance of business to new Labour after his recent round-Britain business tour. John Major is running a series of seminars for small business. Even with the general election probably 18 months away, politics is courting business hard.

So what does business think of all this? What is its response to this Westminster wooing? Who will be the victor in the political powerplay for business backing — Tony Blair or John Major?

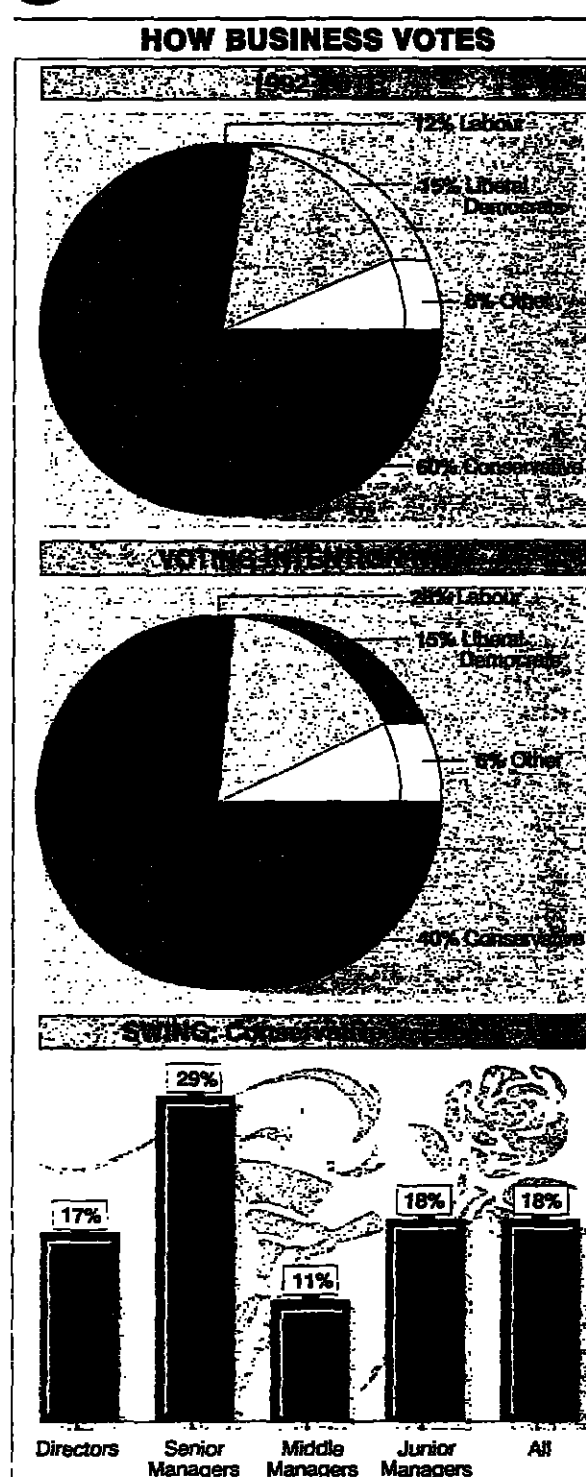
For the first time since both the main political parties launched their new business offensives, business today gives a clue, in the shape of survey evidence from all levels — from the captains of industry in the boardrooms to junior managers.

Taken together, the evidence is mixed — business retains its nervousness about Labour, especially on such issues as its plans for a minimum wage, which will dominate Labour's conference in Brighton today, but it is positive enough for Labour to encourage the party's leadership in its bid for business support, and gloomy enough for the Government to make Conservatives worry about whether they are losing business support.

John Gardiner, chairman of the Laird Group, takes an even and sceptical view. "Both Labour under Blair and the Conservatives say they understand the need to let business and industry get on with their jobs," he says.

"But the Conservatives can't resist stepping in occasionally, and the fear is that Labour will be worse — that somehow they'll go against logic and feel they ought to step in."

But Mr Gardiner's view, reported in the *Management Today* magazine, is not much reflected in the findings published today of a new survey of company managers — ranging from top-of-the-line directors to juniors on the management ladder — from the Institute of Management.



terms, huge. According to the IOM survey, business support for the Conservatives is down by a third, while business support for Labour has more than doubled.

While this means that business is still overall backing the Tories, the Conservatives' complete majority support from business in the last election now looks severely weakened, with backing for Labour and the Liberal Democrats together more than for the Conservatives.

The 18 per cent swing is reflected right down the managerial ladder. Even among company directors, the swing is 17 per cent, while among senior managers it is a psychologically staggering 29 per cent.

According to the survey, more senior managers now support Labour than they do the Conservatives — 45 to 28 per cent. "This is middle England," says Roger Young, the IOM's director-general. "The figures tend to support the view that Labour is gaining ground with business."

Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, and a longstanding Labour supporter in business, says plainly: "A Labour government would be good for the country." Though even he has his reservations: "I am concerned that Labour remains naive in its attitude to business, with the Blair ap-

proach in danger of being too accommodating, and the left wing excessively suspicious and hostile."

But Sipko Huismans, chief executive of Courtaulds, says, "If Tony Blair delivers what he says, then I am perfectly relaxed about the prospect of a Labour government. I have no problem with the sort of things he stands for."

However, that sort of response does not feature greatly in a poll of 103 chairmen, chief executives and other board members from *The Times* Top 500 companies carried out by MORI, the polling organisation, for *Management Today*. As many as 63 per cent of this group would vote Conservative, with only 6 per cent supporting Labour — leading the magazine to suggest that Mr Blair's new Labour still has a lot to do before Britain's captains of industry abandon the Tory ship.

But 50 per cent believe that a Labour government would either make no difference or have a beneficial effect on business, with benefits including more spending on education and training, a greater commitment to Europe and to an industrial policy.

Mr Huismans says: "In fact, from Courtaulds' point of view, I am marginally more positive towards Labour than the Tories because of Labour's higher degree of commitment

to Europe and the single currency." Forty-three per cent of business leaders polled by MORI say that Labour would have a detrimental effect on business — though the overwhelming effect they see it would have is a change in personal taxes.

Mr Blair's statements on his business tour that Labour will not increase taxes may help assuage such fears.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, says the reaction of most business to a switch from Conservative to Labour would most likely be "Change? What change?", though, even as the leader of one of the companies most favoured by the Conservatives in the 1980s, he says that Labour "will set off with policies for sustainable growth, based on low inflation, and a reasonable cost of borrowing. This gives no cause for concern."

He has concern about Labour's minimum wage proposals, and about talk of constraints on shareholder dividends in order to promote long-term investment.

According to the IOM's findings, just over half of Britain's managers are against Labour's plans to sign the EU social charter for the UK, and 55 per cent do not think that full employment is a realistic policy objective.

They want low inflation as a priority for UK economic policy, but almost 70 per cent want to see a strengthening of regulatory control of the utilities, as Labour is proposing.

Significantly, as many as 83 per cent want a closer partnership between business and the Government — the key to Labour's appeal to business.

Labour leaders will be delighted at this — and with the results of a parallel IOM survey, to be released on the eve of next week's Conservative Party conference, which is likely to show considerable business disenchantment with a range of core Conservative economic policies.

Business leaders believe the key to the swing towards Labour lies in the increasing globalisation of business and what is seen as the Conservatives' opposition to Europe. As more UK businesses export, they come into contact and competition with companies from other countries whose governments give them greater support — and they want Britain to do likewise.

And as Europe becomes an ever-more important market, hostility from Tory Eurosceptics is seen as actively damaging.

Mr Blair's own claims for new Labour's pitch to business are clear: "The Labour Party in many ways is a party better able to represent industry than the Conservative Party, which has produced neither the economic policies nor the innovation and industrial policies that we require."

The sheep in wolf's clothing

Whatever Happened to...? Radio 4, 9.15pm.

Here is an easy question for you. Who killed two little pigs, huffly and puffly, blew down their house, trussed up and then locked up a sweet old Grandma in a cupboard, and swilled down a little lad called Tont? Did you say the Big Bad Wolf? This is precisely what you would be expected to say if it had not been for this outrageous programme. The truth is that if Leslie Phillips is to be believed tonight — and he has played so many wolves of the girl-eating type in British films that it is difficult to see him in any other skin — the shocking charges laid against the Big Bad Wolf in children's fiction are not worth the paper they are printed on.

Affairs of the Heart: Jimmy Young, Radio 2, 11.30am.

Helpline are increasingly being used as a channel of communication between listeners in need of advice and experts who can provide it. Radio 2 organises these "Can I help you?" sessions rather better than anybody else. A new series starts today in the Jimmy Young show, and continues in other Radio 2 programmes until Wednesday. *Affairs of the Heart* does sound a bit Barbara Cartlandish and so does the theme music, Debussy's *Clair de Lune*. But the snippets I have heard from the case histories of sexual experience are far removed from the June/moon soporifics of some well-known love songs. The helpline is open 24 hours a day. For confidential advice, call free on 0800 022022.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo, 4.00pm Dave Pearce 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnon 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 4.40 Judge Owens and at 5.20 The Nightly Mx 7.30 The Evening Session 8.00 Apache Indian, live from Manchester 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wandy Lloyd	All times in BST. 5.00am Newsweek 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Europe Today 8.00 News & 7.30 Shaf 8.20 The Village Choir Show 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The Greenfield Collection 10.00 News in German 10.15 Anytime 10.25 Sport 11.00 Newsday 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Shelf News Newsday 12.00pm Onibus 1.00 News 1.25 Bulletin 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 The Muslim's Muslim 2.00 Newsday 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Sport 3.45 Concert Hall 5.00 News 5.15 The World Today 5.30 News in German 6.00 Europe Today 6.30 Newsday 6.45 Sport 7.00 Newsday 7.30 News in German 8.00 News Summary 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Multimedia 9.00 Newsday 10.00 News 10.05 Bulletin 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Surprised by love in steamy Glasgow

When a drama is as thoughtful and inventive as Saturday's *Ruffian Hearts* (BBC2), it's funny how people want to spoil it with labels, comparing it pitifully with other things. It confirms the impression that, nowadays in television drama, everyone's a busy mogul with a manicure appointment.

David Kane's *Ruffian Hearts* arrived with more labels on it than a suitcase in a Graham Greene novel: "A kind of *La Ronde*", or even "A kind of *Dangerous Liaisons*". Whereas in fact, it was simply a collage of tragicomic, original stories about love, deftly contrived to interweave, rather in the manner of — well, television drama. The setting was Glasgow, in particular a towering, steaming tenement building, in which Puccini arias mixed with television in the stairwells, doors were azed and burned for firewood, and a crippled artist drew circles freehand

for hours by the clock. The staircases were arranged in a double-helix, so that people could go up and down on separate tracks. How people got used to that, I'll never know, but it's a jolly fine image for alienation.

But even if they had the hang of the steps, they were surprised by love, these people. They bumped into it, sometimes literally. Gormless-looking Mick (Ewen Bremner) arrived with his mouth open and his head in a headlock bandage, a cross between Vincent van Gogh and Dopey. He had lost an ear in a cockfight and was currently (yikes) wearing it sewn to the inside of his leg. Marie (Vicki Masson) felt for him when his guitar was stolen; it gave her the strength to renounce a sleazy affair.

And so it went on. Starry-eyed Peter (Paul Blair) fell in puppy love with Dervla (Bronagh Gallagher), who laughed and wickered too much, and finally betrayed him

with his conniving flatmate. Best of all — most amazing, certainly — was Caitlin (Gemma McCrindle), a buffeted waitress with funny pigtail and a peath-grinding habit. She wore a protective shield on the upper chest, which she dunked in drinks like a biscuit. When she offered herself to Peter's volatile flatmate Cheek (Peter Mullan), the horrific outcome had a certain apseps, given her dental problem. He bit her.

They sound like grotesques, but the performances were so uniformly fine, witty and naturalistic that the swirl of that stairwell sucked you right up. And as was made clear by the excellent ITV drama series *Pinkey* last year (which he scripted, but did not direct), he is a major talent, writing great parts for actors, defining them at crisis points when their weakness makes them

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

strong, or their strength makes them weak.

Clive Russell is clearly Kane's favourite hard man (he had a vicious way with a pepper-pot, if memory serves, in the last successful Dundee thriller *June City*). Anyway, he started again in *Ruffian Hearts* — another hard man, this time with a Billy Connolly accent, a seedy nightclub and a bad temper. But when love

struck at his ruffian heart, his behaviour would have made a kitten Whiskas commercial look abusive. It only needed his feisty old flame Beattie (Mazreen Beattie) to tell him off, and suddenly he was purty in her hands.

To sum up, then, *Ruffian Hearts* was a treat — clever, fresh, funny, and with a beautifully varied musical soundtrack. I just hope the slot was all right for it. Traditionally, Saturday night is a graveyard. Whether or not to stay up for the South Bank Show (ITV) on Sunday night has long been a dilemma, but last night's profile of kd lang was a highlight of the series so far, with gobsacking footage of the early lang in Nashville mud of black rock, lacquered hair, diamond buttons and shortie white cowboy boots. Honest and direct, she made an instant favourite subject, and didn't object to answering questions with the sun in her eyes. When she said at the

end that fame wasn't interesting, for once it sounded like a genuine opinion, and not hokey.

Left to my own resources, I fear I would watch nothing but *Pride and Prejudice* (BBC1) at the moment, possibly on a six-hour loop-tape to avoid time-wasting rewinds. If the cats could be trained to drag regular sherbet on a gold tray, the experience of luxury could hardly be more complete. But you are probably sated with *Pride and Prejudice*, and I will rein in the superlatives for a future week. Last night's episode saw the arrival of Wickham, the Netherlands ball, and Mr Collins's proposal — three momentous scenes, all beautifully handled. Mr Collins's dancing. "Other way, Mr Collins!" was a splendid addition to Jane Austen as was the howling of dogs during Mary's recital. Meanwhile I will raise only one further point: is

Colin Firth (Darcy) always filmed slightly out of focus, or are my eyes fogging with desire?

Finally, for anyone too squeamish to watch 999 *Lifesavers* (BBC1) on Fridays, they missed a real piece of television, when a house fire was dramatised, in the manner of a primitive public information film. It was unbelievable. A flustered woman ran into the hall. "I'm going to run down stairs!" she began, but "NO, DON'T DO THAT!" commanded Michael Buerk's voice from behind the camera. And instead of saying, "What? Who are you? Did you start this fire?" she obeyed meekly. "NEVER JUMP STRAIGHT OUT OF AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW," Buerk continued in the same infuriating tone, making you want to smack him in the mouth. I had assumed comic sketch writers lampooned this sort of thing to death, circa 1975. How wrong I am, it seems.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (105/50)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (89/20/43)
 - 9.05 Dallas... The Final Years (1) (Ceelex) (88/84/80)
 - 9.50 Holiday Outings (1) (87/47/33)
 - 10.00 News (Ceelex), regional news and weather (55/27/26)
 - 10.05 Conference Live 95. Nick Ross presents coverage of this year's Labour Party Conference from Brighton. With Anne Perkins and Jon Sopel (1) (84/27/35) 12.50pm Regional News and weather (21/61/27)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceelex) (75/192)
 - 1.30 Neighbours (Ceelex) (1) (47/20/74) 1.55 Knots Landing (1) (73/71/11) 2.40 Mary Berry's Ultimate Bake Off (10/10/35) 2.50 Emergency Heart Attacks (46/52/1) 3.05 The Great British Quiz (1) (88/86/86)
 - 3.30 Philbert The Frog (1) (1) (10/88/40) 3.35 Quake Dots (1) (44/33/14) 3.45 Dear Mr Barker (1) (44/35/50) 4.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (1) (90/1/95) 4.10 Phantom 2040 (Ceelex) (1) (12/55/65) 4.35 Grange Hill (1) (Ceelex) (1) (25/7/59)
 - 5.00 Newsround (Ceelex) (91/89/19) 5.15 Blue Peter (Ceelex) (1) (24/11/73)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceelex) (1) (82/23/14)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceelex) and weather (73)
 - 6.30 Regional News magazines (53)
 - 7.00 Telly Addicts with Noel Edmonds (Ceelex) (1) (40/14)
 - 7.30 Watchdog. Anne Robinson presents the consumer magazine, includes a report on British Gas. It's done enough to merit its Government Charter mark (Ceelex) (1) (37)
 - 8.00 EastEnders. Sam's plan for revenge on David goes badly wrong. (Ceelex) (1) (94/82)



Belinda Lang and Gary Olsen (9.30pm)

- 9.30 2point4 Children (Ceelex) (1) (52/30)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceelex) regional news and weather (92/27)
- 9.30 Panorama. Waiting for Labour. Gavin Hewitt examines what New Labour will be able to deliver as the Labour Party conference opens in Brighton (Ceelex) (86/82/1)
- 10.10 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Scotland. Billy Connolly visits Culloden (1) (Ceelex) (1) (78/75/75). Wales: Moving Home. 150 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Scotland. 12.00 Omnibus 12.00pm Film 95 12.40 Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories 1.50 News headlines
- 10.40 Omnibus: Artist Unknown. (Ceelex) (1) (89/61/6)
- 11.30 Film 95 with Barry Norman. Including reviews of Assassins with Sylvester Stallone, Land and Freedom and Pocahontas. Plus an interview with Nicole Kidman about her latest comedy, To Die For (Ceelex) (1) (89/68)
- 12.00 Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories (Ceelex) (1) (91/75/74)
- 1.00am Weather (82/18/16)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
- As London except 12.55 Coronation Street (82/18/21) 1.25 Home and Away (82/18/21) 1.55-2.00 Country Practice (91/32/37) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (13/25/39) 6.30-7.00 Anglia Weekend (78/25/4)
 - 6.30-7.00 Anglia News (21) 1.10-1.40 The Big Bang (85/11) 1.10-1.40 Film: Without a Trace (87/40/48) 4.05-4.30 Best of British Motor Sport (84/27/35) 4.30-5.00 The Big Bang (85/11) 5.00-5.30 The Real Goodies (89/45)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except 1.05-2.30 A Country Practice (91/32/37) 3.30-3.55 Central News (91/32/37) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (13/25/39) 6.30-7.00 Anglia Weekend (78/25/4) 7.00-7.30 Central News (91/32/37) 7.30-8.00 Central News (91/32/37) 8.00-8.30 Central News (91/32/37) 8.30-9.00 Central News (91/32/37) 9.00-9.30 Central News (91/32/37) 9.30-10.00 Central News (91/32/37) 10.00-10.30 Central News (91/32/37) 10.30-11.00 Central News (91/32/37) 11.00-11.30 Central News (91/32/37) 11.30-12.00 Central News (91/32/37) 12.00-12.30 Central News (91/32/37) 12.30-1.00 Central News (91/32/37) 1.00-1.30 Central News (91/32/37) 1.30-2.00 Central News (91/32/37) 2.00-2.30 Central News (91/32/37) 2.30-3.00 Central News (91/32/37) 3.00-3.30 Central News (91/32/37) 3.30-4.00 Central News (91/32/37) 4.00-4.30 Central News (91/32/37) 4.30-5.00 Central News (91/32/37) 5.00-5.30 Central News (91/32/37) 5.30-6.00 Central News (91/32/37) 6.00-6.30 Central News (91/32/37) 6.30-7.00 Central News (91/32/37) 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